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The volunteers helping to restore the 7202 locomotive are celebrating the 50th year and the award Picture: Didcot Railway Centre

Chuffed to win top award

VOLUNTEERS who gave up their time to help develop an old railway depot into a globally recognised preservation centre have been awarded a top honour.

The Great Western Society was honoured with the Queen's award for voluntary services as the centre celebrates its 50th year.

The group has been responsible for turning the site into a centre of excellence for railway preservation by helping restore steam locomotives, historic carriages and wagons, or buildings sourced from Great Western Railway.

Frank Dumbleton, a member of the society, said: "The success of Didcot Railway Centre over the past 50 years is living proof of the massive contributions made by each and every volunteer.

"The recognition of this contribution through the Queen's award helps make the effort worthwhile, on top of the satisfaction we get by giving a great day out to the tens of thousands of visitors from all over the world who come to us each year."

Centre manager Roger Orchard said: "We feel hugely honoured to have been given this award.

"We hope it will stimulate more volunteers to come and see the many different roles we are able to offer people of all ages and abilities."

This is not the first time the centre's volunteers have been recognised.

In January, rail enthusiast and volunteer Viv Cooper was awarded the British Empire Medal (BEM) in the New Year's Honours List.

Viv has been involved as a volunteer at Didcot Railway Centre for around 53 years and was honoured with the accolade for her services to the community and to railway heritage.

The centre houses a unique collection of Great Western steam engines, coaches, wagons and buildings.

It has hosted several locomotives and will be welcoming the Flying Scotsman – considered the most famous in the world – this August bank holiday.

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Trust criticised for not enough doctors

AN NHS trust responsible for out-of-hours care has been slammed after failing to recruit enough doctors and missing targets.

An independent health regulator has told Oxford Health Foundation Trust, which is responsible for all out-of-hours services across the county, it must make improvements.

In the six months leading up to inspection the trust had met 82 per cent of face-to-face consultations within two hours of assessment for urgent patients – the target is 95 per cent.

And at the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection in November last year, the first for the service, there were not enough clinical staff to ensure the trust met performance standards across the service.

This included 11 staff not being fully trained in basic life support and full checks ensuring every GP could work safely with children not being in place.

However, the trust said the report's recommendations have been "acted upon", including better record keeping of GP disclosing and barring service (DBS) checks.

Chief inspector Professor Steve Field said in his report: "The provider had been experiencing clinical staff shortages throughout 2016.

"This had resulted in the provider not attaining some of the quality requirements.

"Despite significant effort to recruit additional staff there had been difficulties sourcing appropriate staff in a timely manner.

"The provider had alerted their commissioners to the difficulties."

He added that a recruitment programme was 'under way' during the visit and new staff were appointed in December 2016 and January this year.

Rosalind Pearce, executive director of watchdog Healthwatch Oxfordshire, said she found the report's findings worrying.

She said: "It is potentially putting patients and children at risk and that is not good enough.

"It concerns us that one of our main hospital trusts gets a requires improvement rating."

The trust was told it provides a good quality of care to patients and at responding to people's needs.

A spokesperson for Oxford Health said: "The inspection, which happened some months ago, identified a number of areas for improvement, all of which have been acted upon.

"Since all practising GPs already have DBS checks we had not prioritised keeping records of these, but have now amended our approach.

"Recruitment to the service remains a challenge due to many local GPs reaching retirement age, but we are continuing our recruitment efforts."

The report added that 96 per cent of patients have confidence and trust in the doctor/nurse they saw, and 96 per cent said they were treated with dignity and respect.

Cycling festival will remember Claudia Comberti

THIS year's Tandem bike festival in Oxford will be held in memory of a cyclist who passed away.

The festival at Lower Farm in Ramsden on June 16 to 18 will be held in memory of Claudia Comberti, 31, who fell off her bike and was run over by a bus on Botley Road in May.

Festival volunteers said: "[The festival] will be held in memory of Claudia, to continue the celebration of her life, to bring the community together, to listen, learn and dance in nature and to get energised to bring about positive change in whatever way we can."

For tickets, visit https://tinyurl.com/yamxyk64.

Saddle up for a new career

A HORSE rehoming charity is offering students the chance to become horsemen and women through a new 'refreshing' college initiative.

HEROS Charity is working with Abingdon & Witney College to deliver an equine and thoroughbred qualification, starting this September, for students wishing to work in the racing industry.

Courses will involve riding, yard work, and work placements with local trainers.

The full-time programmes will run for either one or two years and are supported by the British Horseracing Authority (BHA) and the National Trainers Federation (NTF).

Pam Willsher, head of faculty at Abingdon & Witney College, said: "The new college outreach model offers a refreshing approach for students to gain racing-specific experience alongside developing horse knowledge and riding skills over one or two years."

Director of people and development at the BHA, Carole Goldsmith, said: "Racing in Britain takes the care of horses who leave the sport very seriously, which is why those involved in the retraining and rehoming of horses will make the perfect individuals to pass on their extensive skills and knowledge to new recruits to the sport.

"This is an exciting initiative that has the potential to provide a source of skilled horsemen and women for the sport."

HEROS Charity cares for horses that have left the industry, and works to retrain and rehome them.

Education and training development manager at HEROS Charity, Eleanor Boden, said: "The new programmes have riding skills and horse care at their foundation, ensuring that students are well equipped with the skills and knowledge they need to work in the industry."

The courses will primarily be based at the charity, close to Lambourn in the Valley of the Racehorse.

Follow election coverage

PEOPLE are heading to the polls today to vote in the general election – and you can follow the local results on our live blog throughout the night.

A total of 29 candidates are vying for Oxfordshire's six constituencies in Oxford West & Abingdon, Oxford East, Witney, Banbury, Wantage and Henley.

Oxford East is the only current Labour seat – all other five constituencies are Conservative-controlled.

Results are expected to be announced across the county in the early hours of tomorrow morning.

We will be providing updates

of all the action through a live blog on our website at www.oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

News and reaction will also appear afterwards online and in next week's paper.

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'Drugs trial that shrank tumours boosted my life'

Professor urges people to join in

By Eva Astreinidou

A WOMAN whose tumours have 'shrunk' because of a new drug is asking others to take part in life-improving medical trials.

Professor Basia Zaba is urging people to drop in at an event to talk to healthcare staff about information on medical trials and how they can participate in research.

Basia, of Upton, near Didcot, was diagnosed with kidney cancer in February last year, before the disease spread to her lungs.

At 68, she joined a clinical trial at Oxford's Churchill Hospital to find out whether a new drug can help prevent further growth of their tumour.

As a professor of medical demography at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Basia analyses the impact of new treatments, developed through trials, on populations in rural Africa.

She said: "I know this is by far the best option for people.

"They are looking out for you, you are seen much more often and get much more careful monitoring."

She said the tumours in her lungs have shrunk because of the treatment, delivered once every three weeks at the Churchill, part of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Basia added: "I am sure I am doing much better as a result of the trial."

The clinical trial consists of mixing together three drugs, two of which are already widely used NHS drugs.

The new treatment, 'drug 1' is delivered intravenously with drug 2, and drug 3 is taken in tablet form.

She said while there are side effects and her cancer is still incurable the drugs trial was helping her continue to lead a 'busy, active life' with husband David Beckles.

She said: "What I am hoping for is another three or four years of living a full and active life. We still go sailing. I am continuing doing the things that matter to me and that I enjoy."

The drop-in event at West Oxford Community Centre on Tuesday is being hosted by the Clinical Research Network of Thames Valley and South Midlands (CRN).

Prof Andrew Protheroe, associate professor of urooncology at the Churchill Hospital, and the CRN's coclinical director, said: "Basia is tolerating the trial treatment extremely well.

"I do feel it is important to be able to offer patients the choice of standard treatment or clinical trials at any point in their disease pathway when they have to make a decision about further treatment."

Professor Basia Zaba, of Upton, is taking part in a drug trial for kidney cancer, which has now spread to her lungs

News Bites

Death of boy, 6

DIDCOT: A six-year-old boy died after suffering a serious medical incident in Didcot.

Police and paramedics were called to Somerville, north of Sandringham Road, at 1pm on Wednesday last week.

South Central Ambulance Service confirmed the boy suffered from a serious medical incident and that there was nobody else involved.

He was taken by ambulance to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Headington where he died.

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To request an application pack contact Keith Gough at 01235 512436 or email civichall@didcot.gov.uk.

Pop goes church

DIDCOT: Crescendo, a group of singers, will perform a selection of popular songs at the Methodist Church on Sunday.

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United by meal and memories

PEOPLE of Muslim faith welcomed the local community to break their fast for Ramadan as part of nationwide events commemorating the tragic murder of MP Jo Cox a year ago.

The Muslim community in Oxford hosted 'The Grand Iftar' to demonstrate the 'openness and tolerance needed right now' on Thursday last week at the Asian Cultural Centre.

The event took place in the lead-up to the events that will be held on June 16 to 18 to pay tribute to the MP.

At the event, guests enjoyed the Iftar – the meal Muslims eat at sunset to break their fast each day during Ramadan – which was prepared by volunteers, with some of the food donated by local restaurants.

Coming together to remember murdered MP Jo Cox

Brendan Cox, Jo Cox's husband, said: "At this particularly delicate time, when community relations are under such strain and certain voices in society are attempting to stoke hatred and divide us, this event couldn't be more welcome.

"It's a wonderful demonstration of the openness, tolerance and understanding that's so needed right now."

Shabnam Sabir, founder of the Oxford Homeless Project, who helped host the event, said: "The Great Get Together is the perfect opportunity to bring people together to celebrate the true essence of what community is all about.

"Ramadan is all about sharing and caring and what better way to show this than inviting the people of Oxford to join us for a community Iftar meal.

"Not only will it bring different communities together, it will bridge a greater understanding between people of different faiths and no faiths."

Julie Siddiqi, national coordinator of the Big Iftar, said: "We must keep away from the divisive narrative that some are spreading and instead reach out to each other more not less.

"It will be a great weekend which will leave a lasting legacy that we can all work with long into the future."

Over 100,000 events are expected to take place across the UK in memory of the MP, who was fatally shot and stabbed outside a library in Birstall, West Yorkshire on June 16, 2016.

The events are inspired by Jo Cox's speech in parliament, when she said "we are far more united and have far more in common than that which divides us".

To find out how to take part, visit www.greatgettogether.org.

Summer drink drive warning

MOTORISTS have been warned not to get behind the wheel if they have enjoyed an extra drink or two in the warmer weather.

The warning comes as police crackdown on misbehaving drivers as part of June's national anti-drink/drug-drive campaign.

Thames Valley Police (TVP) and Hampshire Constabulary have joined forces to deter and detect drink/drug drivers across Thames Valley [as well as Hampshire and the Isle of Wight] until June 30.

Officers will carry out extra patrols and more 'proactive' breath and drug tests.

TVP said drink and drug driving makes impaired drivers 23 times more likely to kill themselves or someone else in a collision.

Superintendent Simon Dodds, head of the joint roads policing operations unit, said driving impaired is "simply not worth the devastation that is all too often left behind".

He added: "We are dedicated to reducing it, these people not only put themselves at risk, but others who are often innocently going about their daily lives."

Those convicted of driving under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol can be punished with a minimum one-year driving ban, a criminal record, unlimited fines and imprisonment.

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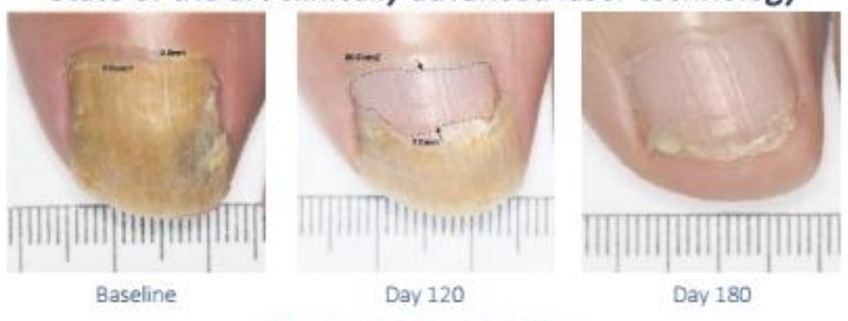
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'Jihadi Jack' wants UK return to talk to mum

By George Welch

A 21-year-old British Muslim convert suspected of going to Syria to help build an Islamist state has begged to be released from a Syrian jail so he can return to the UK and "explain some things" to his parents.

Jack Letts – dubbed 'Jihadi Jack' – has escaped from the ISIS stronghold of Raqqa and is now a prisoner of the Kurdish militia.

In an interview with Rê Production, he said he was living in a Syrian prison but had "no idea" what would happen to him next.

He said: "I want to get out of prison because I'm currently still in prison with the YPG [Kurdish militia in Syria], and, eventually, just continue my life. I have no idea what is going to happen to me now. It's the future, no one knows except for Allah.

"I want to see my mum, and explain to her some things."

Letts, who went to Cherwell School in Oxford, converted to Islam as a teenager. In 2014 he went on holiday to Jordan but then called his parents, who live in Grandpont, a prosperous Oxford suburb, to tell them he had travelled to Syria.

His parents, organic farmer John Letts, 56, and book editor Sally Lane, 55, have been charged with making money available for terrorism purposes and face trial later this year. They deny any wrongdoing.

The couple haven't seen their son for over three years.

The Mail on Sunday claimed it had seen messages sent from Jack to his parents, which show that, during his time in Syria, he became increasingly troubled by the disconnection between his idea of an Islamic state and the brutal reality of murders and mass rape.

A spokesperson for the Foreign Office told The Oxford Paper that it did not have the resources to search for and help Jack.

They said: "The UK advises against all travel to Syria and parts of Iraq.

"As all UK consular services are suspended in Syria and greatly limited in Iraq, it is extremely difficult to confirm the whereabouts and status of British nationals in these areas."

Saying a 'huge thank you'

PEOPLE in Oxfordshire joined in nationwide celebrations to 'make some noise' for those who volunteer their time for causes in their community.

Many got the chance to participate in a week of events during National Volunteers' Week from June 1 to 7.

Emily Shaw, a coordinator at the Oxfordshire Community and Voluntary Action (OCVA) group, said: "Volunteers' week is a great opportunity to raise the profile and make some noise about volunteering. Oxfordshire already has so many wonderful volunteers who give their time, energy and skills to deliver essential services across the county.

"Volunteers' Week is a chance to say a huge thank you to them and to encourage others to join in.

"With over 4,000 charities and community groups in Oxfordshire there really is something out there for everyone and Volunteers' Week has been an opportunity to raise awareness of these opportunities."

She added: "It has been wonderful to hear about so many charities in Oxfordshire making a fuss of their volunteers this week."

The OCVA group kicked off the week last Thursday at Oxford Train Station to help launch a new movement, Team Oxford.

Over the course of the day, a group of volunteers spoke to 150 rail passengers about how they can get involved in their local community.

Amelia and Abdul did their bit to support Volunteers' Week at Fun in the Park in Abingdon on Saturday

At Abingdon's Fun and Music in the Park on Saturday, the group asked children like six-year-old Amelia Quiggin to produce pictures to be sent to charities in Oxfordshire that support individuals who are isolated or unwell.

The OCVA also ran free 'Introduction to Volunteering' workshops across Oxford.

The group also appeared on BBC Radio Oxford with a volunteer called Kirsty who visited the Volunteer Centre in 2016 and has gone on to give her time to help fundraise for Maggie's Cancer Centre and Marie Curie, and has now signed up to help sell poppies for the Royal British Legion.

To find out more about local volunteering opportunities, contact vol@ocva.org.uk.

Tolkien novel published 40 years after author's death

BEFORE JRR Tolkien wrote The Hobbit and The Lord of The Rings he scripted another story that has never been published – until now.

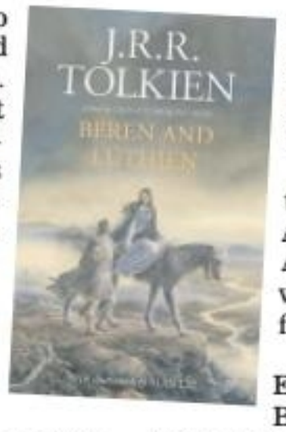
It's been 100 years since the former Oxford University professor started work on Beren and Lúthien, a love story between a man and an elf.

The book, inspired by Tolkien's relationship with wife Edith, has now been published 40 years after his death.

Tolkien began work on the fantasy book, set 6,500 years before the events of The Lord of The Rings, after he returned to Oxford from France and the Battle of the Somme.

The author's youngest son Christopher Tolkien restored his father's manuscripts to once again transport readers into a world of fantasy.

The story tells a tale of an immortal elf whose father was opposed to her love for a mortal man called Beren.



HarperCollins published the work worldwide on Thursday last week, the 10th anniversary of the publication of Tolkien's last Middle Earth book, The Children of Húrin.

The book also features illustrations by Alan Lee, who won an Academy Award for his work on Peter Jackson's film trilogy.

Tolkien and wife Edith have the names Beren and Lúthien on their gravestones at Wolvercote Cemetery.

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Spring into Action

Now's the perfect time to replace your garden fence once and for all. Anna Ryder Richardson - Designer and Television Presenter - takes a closer look at Colourfence, the revolutionary low-maintenance system.

It's been ten years since I regularly graced TV screens helping transform people's living spaces with MDF and stripped floorboards. Recently it's been more "celebrity muck out" than "celebrity make-over" as I took up the challenge of owning my own Wildlife Zoo in Tenby. In this time I've learnt quiet a lot about fences and having researched the various options for my own benefit I thought I would share my knowledge with a wider audience.

The latest design processes mean there is now a tremendous array of fencing products for you to choose from, constructed from a variety of materials. Each has its own attributes, and ultimately it can often come down to a matter of personal preference. For me, there was one unique system that stood out as providing the best balance between price and functionality which eradicates fencing problems for good. Or for at least 25 years. Colourfence. For quality, value, longevity, aesthetic design, this fencing system ticks all the boxes. Fencing made for the 21st century that will transform the look of your garden which is supplied and fitted by a company whose customer service is as good as the product.

In my view, Colourfence is the 'Rolls Royce' of fencing – just without the exclusive price tag. What's more, it's guaranteed to stay in place in up to 130mph winds and is virtually maintenance free.

To find out how the experts from Colourfence might help you, I suggest you call **01865 582 171** and speak to their team.

"I honestly believe that Colourfence is the best general purpose fencing product on the market today!"

Colourfence: The ultimate garden fence?

For many Colourfence is perhaps the ultimate choice. For the last 15 years it's been widely used across the UK and has steadily gained a reputation for its quality. By using the highest specification Colorbond steel in the fence structure itself, complemented by the highest level of customer service from accredited Franchisees, Colourfence is now regarded by many as the premier fencing solution in the market. Immune to the rot and resistant to the weather that so quickly effects wooden fences, Colourfence has none of the drawbacks of wood - plenty of additional benefits and what's more it's better value!

Call **01865 582 171** for more information

Gardeners' Questions

Q Wooden fence panels just don't seem to last - is there a storm resistant alternative?

A The Colourfence system has been tested under cyclonic conditions to withstand storms with wind gusts up to 130mph. Unlike your wooden fence - once professionally installed - Colourfence really will stay up!

Q No matter what I treat my wooden fence with - nothing seems to prevent it rotting or looking shabby for very long.

A Treating your fence is a thankless and expensive task. It's also a losing battle. Wood simply want's to rot. Colourfence offers a low-maintenance alternative where by an occasional wash down will keep it looking great for up to 25 years! GUARANTEED!†

THIS WEEK'S JOB

†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

Step into Spring – with COLOURFENCE

The only garden fence you will ever need!

Every gardener knows that it pays to plan ahead. If you are one of the thousands of people who watched helpless, as winter winds battered their garden, it will not be a surprise that garden fences are almost always the first casualty. Whether you have previously patched, painted or simply prayed to keep your fence going, there's no escaping the fact that timber fences will always fall victim to the weather. With Colourfence you can put your garden straight once and for all. Colourfence is scientfically tested and cyclonically rated to ensure when professionally installed, it can withstand wind gusts of up to 130mph. Once it's up – it stays up and is guaranteed to look good year after year. Safe, extra secure and hassle free – you will NEVER need to paint it, treat it or patch it. An occasional hose down will be all you need do to keep it in top condition for years to come. In fact the system is so durable that Colourfence will guarantee† their fencing to last at least 25 years. Available in a range of colours to suit any garden, with or without decorative trellis, the highly skilled installation team make short work of their dramatic transformations. Your sad old fence will be e_ ciently cleared and replaced, leaving you to get back to enjoying your rejuvenated garden. Pricing is just as straightforward and equally attractive. Starting costs are in line with inferior timber systems but with no annual treatments required, Colourfence saves you time and money each and every year. Their aim is your peace of mind. With a 25 year guarantee† Colourfence speaks for itself and promises a lifetime of hassle-free enjoyment.

For more information and to arrange a FREE no obligation site visit simply call one of their helpful team on 01865 582 171.

COLOURFENCE

the revolutionary low-maintenance system

01865 582 171

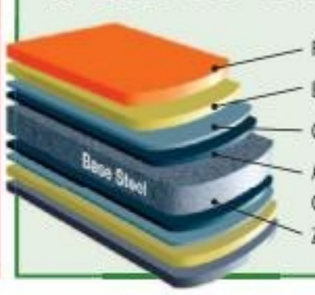
colourfence.co.uk

†Terms and conditions apply - full details available on request

In detail:

- Virtually Maintenance-free.
- Save time & money - no treating required.
- Guaranteed† not to rot, warp or peel for up to 25 years.
- Costs in line with far inferior timber systems
- Variety of colours and sizes available
- Professionally installed by accredited Franchisees

Colourfence is built to last!



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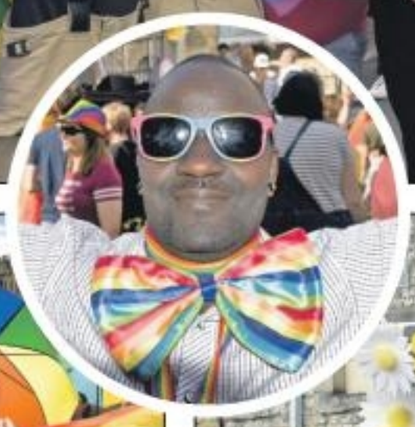
To reassure customers that our free no obligation site survey and quotation is not a precursor to high pressure sales techniques, all Colourfence Franchisees have signed up to the Colourfence No Pressure Promise. Call or visit our website for details.

COLOUR FENCE



Full of Pride at diversity

By Eva Astreinidou

THE world renowned Pride day and parade made its way through Oxford bringing joy, love, and 'hippy' style to the city.

Over 7,000 people celebrated the best of the LGBT community on Saturday and toured the city centre, starting from Radcliffe Square, travelling via Cornmarket and Queens Street before arriving at the Oxford Castle Quarter.

Rob Jordon, Oxford Pride chairman, said on Sunday: "The coming together of community could not have been more visible than yesterday which was so poignant after the terrible news about London Bridge.

"Nearly 7,000 people enjoyed a fantastic parade, and music which included folk, dance and gospel choirs. It didn't stop there, we had stars from X Factor, Let it Shine and crowning glory Courtney Act, international star of both Australian Idol and Ru Paul's Drag Race.

"Charities including Anthony Nolan, Mermaids and Amnesty International were also represented in an event that old, young, local and from further afield could come, enjoy and truly be part of."

Courtney Act, an international drag artist who appeared at the event, said: "It was such a beautiful sight to perform at Oxford Pride. [It was amazing to see] the glitter, the colour and the diversity of the crowd.

"I first performed at Oxford Pride in 2009 and it was so heartwarming to see how it has grown into such a fabulous event."

Charlotte Harris, from Oxford High School's (OHS) LGBTQ+ Club, said: "Everyone from OHS had great fun. It was a fantastic day and we were really grateful for the opportunity to participate in such an amazing event."

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Family fun in the sun at city festival

By Eva Astreinidou

THE Headington Festival was back with a bang at the weekend with the public enjoying the entertainment and tasty produce on offer.

The event on Saturday and Sunday at Headington Centre hosted a variety of stalls and performers displaying a range of talents for families and children alike across the two days.

The festival, which has been running for around 15 years, was held on behalf of Headington Action, a charity working to benefit the community of Headington.

Peter West, one of the organisers, said: "The objective [is to bring] all members of the community together in a special atmosphere which we believe has once again been very effective."

On Saturday, the sunny weather brought a flock of people down to enjoy stalls varying from animal protection charities, to stalls selling Greek food, local produce, and belt and pen sellers.

Jeb the Jester, a performer on stilts, paraded around the centre while juggling. A Flamenco dancer also dazzled the crowds throughout the morning.

The event continued on Sunday at Bury Knowle Park, with over 50 stalls including a large number of local and national charity organisations, a catering and drinks tent, and a fun fair.

Colonel Custard, a local magician, and the Stagecoach Theatre Arts group were also there to entertain in crowds.

www.entertainers.co.uk

THURSDAY 22 JUNE 7.30PM

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Martin's gearing up for 60-mile ride for kitties

A MAN from Bicester will be braving a 60-mile bike ride he has "longed to do" for a cause close to his heart.

Martin Honey, 52, will be cycling overnight on Saturday into the early hours of Sunday for the charity event 'The London Nightrider'.

The event takes place every year but Martin's knee injuries have kept him from signing up previously – that was until this year, when his confidence as a cyclist was "restored".

He has raised more than £230 for his charity of choice, Cats Protection.

He said: "I have had cats throughout my entire life.

"Currently we have Sophie, who was a stray, and Phoebe who came from a cat rescue centre.

"Both cats are extremely happy and healthy and have lived long rewarding lives as very much part of the family.

"With many cats looking for homes, the Cats Protection relies on funding to help care for cats until that family home is found.

"My choice of charity was easy and I am very pleased to be riding to raise funds for them."

Martin said he started training and doing 10-mile time trials at Bicester Millennium cycling club in April and has seen his personal best improve each week.

Martin Honey with his bike

He said: "Not having done any form of cycling for many years it was a challenge to build fitness and core strength."

Martin also took part in a 53-mile sportive in Milton Keynes to prepare himself – little did he know it would be a steep climb to the finish.

He said: "I mistakenly assumed it was going to be flat. Far from it. It was hills all the way, with my total climb nearly 2,700 feet. I had not trained for this so to complete it successfully was rewarding."

Martin will be taking on the challenge of the Nightrider from 11.15pm this Saturday.

To donate, visit tinyurl.com/ycbvoupq.

Brave trio take the plunge for charity

Ten intrepid fundraisers will help our charity of the year reach new heights by jumping out of a plane at 13,000 ft to raise funds for Oxford Children's Hospital and Headway Oxfordshire.

The event is part of Play2Give's (P2G) 10th anniversary pledge to raise as much as possible for the two charities.

We will meet all the courageous participants who intend to jump over Hinton Airfield, near Banbury, on September 3 over the coming weeks.

But this week, we speak to two brothers and our own production manager.

THE OXFORD PAPER and Oxfordshire Guardian
Charity of the year 2017
Play2Give

By George Welch

TWO brothers and a newspaper production manager are among a daring bunch getting ready to throw themselves out of a plane at 120mph in aid of our charity.

Didcot residents Luke Norris, 23, and Matthew Norris, 21 – who are both close friends of P2G founder Andy Baker – are the driving forces behind the tandem skydive.

The idea originated when Sainsbury's worker Luke mused over raising funds for P2G two years ago.

But now, after two years of raising thousands of pounds – including £482 as part of 'Big Shave' – the reality of jumping out of a plane is setting in.

He said: "To say I am bricking the skydive is an understatement.

"I am absolutely petrified. But I stand by my promise and as it's for P2G I am only too keen.

"Andy always amazes me and, despite what he lives with [a brain injury], I always remain inspired by all the great he does, despite the challenges and hurdles he faces medically.

"I am hugely honoured to not only play my part but also being part of such a wonderful organisation.

"Andy always makes me proud. It's a huge pleasure to be his 'best' friend."

Younger brother Matthew, who is also P2G's community officer, said: "Being thrown out of a plane at 13,000 ft must have been in the small print of the job description.

"The fundraising that Play2Give does makes a real difference. Knowing the impact the money we've raised had, I can't wait to do the dive."

Andy, who turned 29 on Monday, celebrated part of his birthday with Luke and Matthew on Sunday.

The Oxfordshire Guardian's very own production manager Pete Herring will also pluck up the courage to do the skydive.

The dad-of-three said: "I have never done anything like this before but I am really up for the challenge. I am sure I'll get nervous closer to the time, but at the moment it's very exciting."

To donate, visit the following pages: Pete Herring – tinyurl.com/yb5w6dj9 (£20 raised so far); Luke Norris – tinyurl.com/y9ns6dks (£180); Matthew Norris – can donate at Luke's page (£130 on an expired page).

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Popaddoms (each) 0.70
Mixed pickle tray 2.50
Indian Platter 5.95
Malay Tikka, Lamb Patis, Veg Pakora, Meat Samosa
Tandoori Platter 5.95
Combination of chicken/ lamb tikka & sheek kebab
Momo 4.95
Choice of chicken or lamb crushed with lentil & tamarind wrapped in a puri
Garlic Fried King Prawn 6.95
Pan fried in Chef's special homemade sauce
Garlic Fried Chicken 4.95
Pan fried in Chef's special homemade sauce
Salmon Fish Tikka 6.95
Salmon delicately spiced
Prawn Puri 4.95
Sweet & Spicy with a hint of coconut served in a puri bread
King Prawn Puri 5.95
Sweet & Spicy with a hint of coconut served in a puri bread
Malay Tikka 4.95
Strips of chicken fillet in a mild creamy sauce.
Chicken Chat 4.25
Diced chicken cooked with a chat masala spice. As a Main 7.95
Chicken Tikka 3.95
Lightly Spiced Chicken Fillet breast cooked in a clay oven
Lamb Tikka 4.25
Lightly Spiced lamb fillet cooked in a clay oven
Tandoori Chicken 3.95
On the bone chicken lightly spiced & cooked in a clay oven
Sheek Kebab 3.95
Minced Lamb skewered & cooked in a clay oven
Chicken Pakora 3.95
Chicken breast pieces, battered & fried
Lamb Samosa 3.25
Savoury Pastry filled with home made mince filling

Vegetable Starters

Vegetarian Platter 4.95
Onion bhaji, vegetable samosa, vegetable pakora & garlic mushrooms
Onion Bhaji 3.25
Chopped onions lightly spiced and then deep fried
Vegetable Samosa 3.25
Savoury pastry with mixed veg filling
Vegetable Pakora 3.75
Cooked as battered dumplings
Chilli Paneer 4.25
Cottage cheese marinated and fried in chillis
Aloo Chat 3.75
Diced potato cooked with chat masala spice

Tandoori Dishes

Marinated in a blend of spices and yogurt then cooked in a clay pot tandoori oven. Served with a side salad & mint sauce dressing.

Chicken Tikka 7.95
Lamb Tikka 8.25
Tandoori Chicken Half 7.95, Full 13.95
Tandoori King Prawn 12.95
Paneer Tikka 7.95
Salmon Tikka 11.95
Tandoori Mixed Grill 11.95
Chicken, lamb, tandoori chicken and sheek kebab

Tandoori Shashlick Dishes

Marinated with light spices and cooked in a tandoori with fresh peppers & onions.

Chicken Shashlick 8.95
Lamb Shashlick 9.25
King Prawn Shashlick 12.95
Paneer Shashlick 8.95

Seafood Specials

King Prawn Nawabi 12.95
Large king prawns in a rich thick sauce. Medium spicy
Salmon Special 12.95
Chef's own recipe, slightly spicy but not too hot
Seabass Delight 15.95
Served with dry vegetables and pilau Rice

Spice Levels: MEDIUM, HOT, PRETTY HOT, SUPER SPICY

Main Course Specials

Little India Special 10.95
Choice of chicken or lamb, our chefs secret recipe a blend of aromatic herbs & spices
8.95
Tender pieces of diced chicken tikka with garlic, green chillies, coriander & Coconut Cream
Lamb Shank 10.95
Rich spicy flavour, accompanied with vegetables
Garlic Chilli Chicken 8.95
Traditional South Indian dish enriched with chilli & fresh garlic
Naga 7.95
Choice of chicken or lamb a hot spicy dish in a rich sauce
Passanda 8.95
Choice of chicken or lamb. Mild & creamy sauce hint of almond & coconut with fenugreek & coriander.
Peshwari Chicken 8.95
Mild with onions & peppers very lightly spiced
Hariyal chicken 8.95
Green minty curry rich in flavour medium hot
Gill Special 10.95
Sweet & sour king prawn with a hint of honey
Railway Lamb 9.95
This unique dish is a memory from the past. It is usually found in the railway stations in India. Chunks of pepper onion,green chilli tomato & cinnamon, slightly hot
Tamarind Chicken 8.95
Sweet & sour medium hot
Little India Platter 13.95
Chicken Jalfrezi, Lamb Dansak, Chicken Tikka Masala.
Murgh Masala 8.95
Shredded Chicken, minced Lamb with Egg. Medium spiced
Satkhora £8.95
Choice of Chicken or Lamb, Medium Spiced with Bangladeshi Lime.
Capsila 8.95
Chicken or Lamb, mild dish with onion, green pepper and mango
Balti Special 11.95
Medium hot. King prawns & chicken, served with Potato
Didcot Dansak 6.95
Mild/sweet & sour with a twist, created by a curry loving Didcot resident.

Traditional Dishes

Masala
Rich creamy texture, with a fruity twist
Butter Chicken
Mild butter sauce with coconut & cream
Balti
Medium hot served with Potato
Jalfrezi
Hot & spicy with green chillies, peppers & onion
Karai
With coriander, chillies and dry spice

Chicken tikka 7.95 **Prawn 7.95** **Lamb tikka 8.95**
King Prawn 10.95 **Vegetable 6.95**

Curry Plain
Mild onion gravy sauce
Madras
Medium hot thick sauce
Dupiaza
Medium hot with chunky onion
Rogan
Rich in juicy fresh tomato & sauce
Chicken 6.95 **Chicken Tikka 7.95**

Sag
Freshly chopped spinach
Patia
Sweet & sour medium hot with coconut
Bhuna
Rich onion sauce, mild to medium hot
Korma
Creamy mild dish with coconut and sugar
Prawn 6.95 **King Prawn 9.95**

Vindaloo
Very hot & spicy
Methi
Unmistakable aroma of fresh fenugreek medium hot
Dansak
Sweet & sour with lentils
Lamb 7.50 **Vegetable 5.95**

ALLERGENS
Please note that all our food is produced in the kitchen which stores allergens. If you are allergic or have any questions about the ingredients in the dishes please ask a member of staff.

Vegetarian Specials

Vegetarian Combo 11.95
Vegetable Masala, Korma & Bhuna
Paneer Jalfrezi 8.95
Cottage cheese with Green peppers & chillis, medium hot
Sag Chana Dansak 6.95
Sweet and sour, Spinach, chickpeas & lentils

Biryani Dishes

Pan fried Rice with your choice of the dishes below, served with vegetable curry sauce

Chicken 8.95
Lamb 9.25
Chicken Tikka 9.95
Lamb Tikka 10.25
Mixed Biryani 11.95 Chicken, Lamb, Prawn with omelette
Prawn 8.95
King Prawn 12.95
Vegetarian 7.95

Vegetable Dishes

Side dish 3.95 Main course 6.95

Vegetable Curry vegetables of the season
Vegetable Bhaji dry vegetables
Garlic Mushrooms mushrooms in garlic
Gobi Bhaji cauliflower
Sag Bhaji spinach dry
Bhindi Bhaji okra
Bombay Potatoes spicy
Sag Aloo spinach and potato
Aloo Gobi potato and cauliflower
Sag Paneer spinach & cottage cheese
Tarka Dahl mild lentils
Masala Dahl spicy lentils
Chana Masala chickpeas
Chana Sag chick peas & spinach
Mushroom Bhaji fairly dry

Bread

Plain Naan 2.35
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Sides

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Mad Hatters make Big Lunch 'the best one yet'

THOUSANDS of people turned out on Sunday to ensure Bicester's fifth Big Lunch was a success.

Town centre streets were lined with chairs and tables and surrounded by stalls selling street food from around the globe.

This year's theme was the Mad Hatter's Tea Party and many supporters donned costumes including Alice in Wonderland and the White Rabbit.

There were bands, dance demonstrations and a chance to learn to drum, browse stalls and try activities.

North Oxfordshire District Scout Association brought along a climbing wall for the more adventurous to test their skills.

The event was opened by a joint church service delivered by Churches Together.

The Big Lunch was organised by the community action group Grassroots Bicester.

Chairman Jason Slaymaker said: "I'm honoured to have been part of Bicester's Big Lunch 2017. Thousands of people came together to share lunch with their neighbours in Bicester town centre.

"I'd like to thank all of my team for making my last year as chairman of the Big Lunch the best one yet."

Revellers were in party mood at this year's Big Lunch in Bicester town centre at the weekend

Solar site the bees' knees

By Samantha McGregor

A SOLAR farm project has installed the UK's first sun-powered beehive to lead the fight to save the insect.

Southill Community Energy added the 'thermosolar' hive to the site near Charlbury, as a pioneering new approach to beekeeping and to combat the spread of the deadly varroa mite.

Bees are essential pollinators for crops within the human food chain, but large numbers are dying due to the parasite that attacks honey bees.

The use of sunlight and solar gain will provide a low-tech, non-chemical solution to protecting bees.

On Saturday the group and beekeeper Tom Worsley moved the swarm to their new home.

Director Tim Crisp said: "The new beehive presents a step-change in the way that beekeepers can treat their bees against the endemic varroa mite.

"The beehive uses solar gain to raise the temperature of the brood nest to 47° C, which kills off the varroa mites while leaving the bees unharmed."

Beekeeper Mr Worsley, of Southill Community Energy, said: "Right now, more than ever, bees need our help to survive.

"What is good for the bees is good for all of us.

"The beehive presents a pivotal moment in the fight against the varroa mite.

"It provides a solution without resorting to chemicals, and without harming the bees.

"Southill Community Energy is more than just a solar farm. It is a beacon that shines a light on forward thinking clean technologies."

Southill Community Energy owns and operates a 4.5MW solar farm on a 40-acre site on the Cornbury Estate. As well as generating solar power, the site is home to a large-scale biodiversity project led by ecologist Dr Guy Parker and run by the community members.

It includes a 25-acre wildflower meadow and an orchard.

News Bites

Creating a buzz

OXON: People are being urged to join the Friends of the Earth's Great British Bee Count, which runs until the end of June.

A free app is available on the charity's website that can be used to help identify and record different species as well as learn more about the insects.

Last year 15,000 people took part in the count.

Carnival time

THAME: The town's annual carnival takes place on Saturday.

There will be a parade, a host of stalls, refreshments and entertainment, including a dog show. The event runs from noon until 3pm.

A call has also gone out for people to volunteer as marshals. Call 07743 032292.

Colourful run

OXFORD: The Rainbow run celebrating 'living life to the full' is back to spread colourful fun.

The family-friendly charity event over 3km hosted by Helen & Douglas House will take place at Cutteslowe Park on June 24 starting from 10am.

Runners will be showered with colourful powder paint across the course.

To sign up, visit https://tinyurl.com/yauw9dzf.

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Protest over 3,500 homes

By Eva Astreinidou

CAMPAIGNERS braved the wet weather to show their opposition to a plan to build 3,500 homes in their area.

A residents' march on Monday evening set off from Clifton Hampden village hall, with campaigners 'celebrating the green belt' and denouncing 'ridiculous' housing targets for the area.

The development is set for land adjacent to Culham Science Centre and forms part of South Oxfordshire District Council's local plan, which outlines housing targets until 2031.

Caroline Baird, a campaigner and resident, was among those who walked around the main road so motorists could see them.

She said: "We need to celebrate the green belt all around Oxford and we ought to show people the scale of these plans.

"The infrastructure for such a development is just not in place. Aside from that, Clifton Hampden and Culham are villages. You can't just stick a town in the middle."

Helen Marshall, from Oxfordshire's Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) said: "CPRE thinks this is one of the most worrying proposals out of all of the ones that have come forward over the last few years.

"It's driven by ridiculous, over exaggerated housing targets that are forcing more and more unsuitable sites to be brought forward in order to meet very short-term targets.

"But this is a site within the green belt, there is very little in the way of supporting infrastructure and we feel that it would be a very dangerous precedent for the green belt as a whole.

"The point for the green belt is that people have confidence it is a permanent designation and for the benefit of nature and people, to give them access to the green space on their doorstep."

Out of the 3,500 homes, 750 are planned for development under the existing infrastructure by developers CEG.

Their representatives declined to comment.

Doorstep crime team helps to save victims from £250k of fraud

'VULNERABLE' victims of fraudulent crime have been saved from handing over a quarter of a million pounds to rogue traders.

Over the last 12 months agencies have been working together to track down rogue traders who prey on the vulnerable and elderly, many of whom are being conned out of their life savings.

The doorstep crime team consists of a seconded Thames Valley Police officer and three trading standards officers from Oxfordshire County Council.

The team has helped save victims being cheated out of £250,000 by various methods, including responding to incidents while also working with local banks who spot and report suspicious large cash withdrawals.

Martin Woodley, the doorstep crime team leader for the council's trading standards service said: "It is encouraging that the team has managed to increase the savings for this financial year. However, we need to stay vigilant, as the number of incidents has also risen.

"This has led to a knock-on effect, increasing the amount of money obtained from victims. This type of fraudulent activity is happening frequently in Oxfordshire, where some victims are conned out of their life savings for unnecessary and overpriced work.

"This causes a detrimental effect on the victim's health and on their confidence. We then need to provide continuing support, by putting safeguarding measures in place."

Jody Kerman, the county council's trading standards operations manager, said: "The figure of £250,000 is a visible sign of the hard work and dedication shown by the doorstep crime team, supported by other colleagues and a range of partner organisations.

"We are also grateful to the victims who come forward to report such incidents of doorstep crime and for the concerned neighbours and family members, who also help us to identify situations of concern."

The doorstep crime team delivers presentations and educational events to community groups, raising the awareness of rogue trader activities and other forms of financial abuse against older people.

The team say that to avoid becoming a victim, "do not make an instant decision on one cold call.

"Speak to family or friends to discuss it, do some online checks on the internet and get three quotes from reputable traders."

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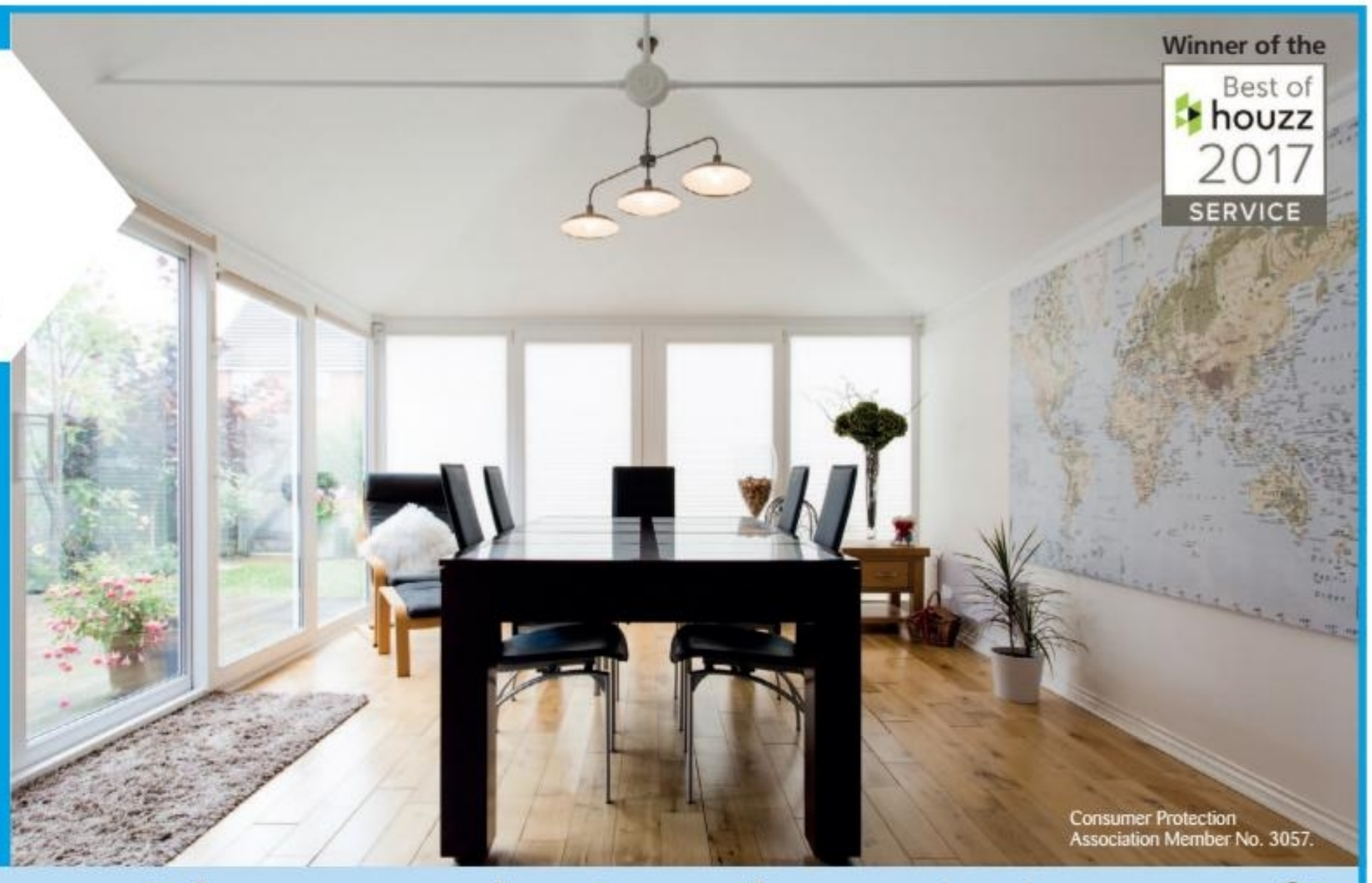

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Sharp rise in the number saying 'I do' provides boost to economy

By George Welch

MORE people are tying the knot in Oxfordshire than ever before.

The number of marriages in the county rose by almost 10 per cent in 2016/17 compared to the previous year.

The county council's registration service has reported that the number of weddings taking place during the year rose to 2,560 – up from 2,356 in 2015/16.

This increase is ahead of national trends, the council said.

The registration service promotes Oxfordshire as "the place to marry" and each year launches a new brochure to encourage people to choose the county as a wedding venue.

Alicja Gilroy, Oxfordshire County Council's superintendent registrar, said the increase in the number of weddings is a "real boost to the local economy".

She said: "By putting effort in to attracting people from elsewhere to hold their ceremony in Oxfordshire we bring trade for hoteliers, restaurants and a whole host of other tourism related ventures.

"All of that helps Oxfordshire thrive and we're very proud of the statistics for the last 12 months.

"We're clearly lucky to have so many spectacular places that attract people to Oxfordshire for weddings, such as Blenheim Palace, the Ashmolean and University-related venues.

"However we do make the most of that advantage by promoting those places and others quite heavily.

"That is clearly reaping dividends.

"We've just recently launched our new wedding brochure and we will continue to do whatever we can to market Oxfordshire as the place to get married.

"Hopefully we will be able to build further on the 9.5 per cent increase in weddings we have seen in the last 12 months."

Superintendant registrar Alicja Gilroy

Hefty boost to help out hospice

AN OXFORD-based company surprised a charity caring for people with terminal illnesses with a hefty £16,000 cheque.

Staff at the Oxford construction company Beard raised the money for Sobell House hospice through a series of fundraising activities including a race night, a jail-break, and a half marathon, handing the final cheque over to the charity earlier this month.

Money raised will go towards helping manage pain and symptoms and advising on financial assistance to enable them to keep their independence for as long as possible.

Tim Wraith, corporate partnerships manager for Sobell House, said: "£16,000 is an incredible amount of money and will make a huge positive difference to the care we provide here at Sobell House."

Staff at Sobell House support people approaching the end of their lives and helps families, friends and carers.

Dean Averies, director of Beard Oxford, said: "Sobell House is staffed by very special people who do such amazing work in caring for and comforting the sick in the community during their final and most difficult days of their lives.

"They really are unsung heroes who we are so proud to support. We've all enjoyed taking part in the fundraising activities which have been a great way of getting everyone – our staff, their families and our subcontractors – doing something fun together outside of work for a very worthy cause."

Beard, a family-owned firm in Cumnor Hill, hopes to raise £125,000 for local charities like Sobell House in areas where it operates across the South of England.

Prospective Conservative candidate for Oxford West and Abingdon Nicola Blackwood; chairman of Beard, Mark Beard; Beard Oxford director Dean Averies and Sobell House corporate partnerships manager, Tim Wraith with the cheque for £16,000. Picture: John Cairns Photography

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Hospital radio celebrates helpers

A HOSPITAL radio station has marked 50 years' volunteering this month.

Members of the Radio Horton team, which is based at Banbury's Horton General Hospital, celebrated the anniversary by joining the national event Volunteers' Week.

The national event, which took place this week, is an annual celebration organised by the National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

Radio Horton, which takes part in events across the community, has 30 volunteers, including ward visitors and presenters.

Sam Smette, Radio Horton's programming and publicity officer, said: "Volunteers make outstanding contributions to the organisation and we are extremely grateful for all the time they contribute and support they give.

"Volunteers are selfless and offer many valuable hours of their free time to help maintain the exemplary service the station has provided for over 50 years.

"Our volunteers like to be involved in shaping the future of the organisation and we encourage all volunteers to give us their feedback and suggestions.

"We acknowledge the fantastic work of our volunteers through recognition and long service certificates from the Hospital Broadcasting Association, though perhaps the greatest reward for a hospital radio volunteer is to make a patient's time in hospital a little more comforting."

Volunteers are the mainstay of Horton Hospital Radio

See how where you live has changed in past few centuries

By Samantha McGregor

PEOPLE will soon be able to see what their neighbourhood looked like hundreds of years ago.

New online interactive maps will show what land in every current Oxfordshire town, village, hamlet and rural location was being used for at various points – even as far back as the 16th century.

Called the Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, the resource shows how land use has changed through the centuries – sometimes quite dramatically and occasionally not at all, such as at Port Meadow in Oxford. The information will be available to everyone from landscape management professionals, academic researchers and council planning officers to curious members of the public.

Abi Tompkins of Oxfordshire County Council said: "Collating this information has been absolutely fascinating and I am convinced residents and professionals will also be stimulated by what is available.

"When you look at a road in an urban area or a quiet corn field on a farm it is often impossible to imagine that in the past the same patch of land may have been woodland or a Roman villa.

"We believe the ability to uncover history via the online tool we have created will prove very popular and we're looking forward to sharing what we've produced.

"We think this is a wonderful resource for the county which will now be permanently available to whoever wants to use it.

"Port Meadow may well now look as it has for many centuries but very few other parts of Oxfordshire can claim the same.

"We invite people to peel back time and plot the changes wrought by the passage of time."

News Bites

Design is revised

BICESTER: Sainsbury's will revise the design of the exterior of the Pioneer Square development after all wooden cladding attached to the outside of the building was removed.

The area between Sainsbury's, Vue cinema and restaurant Prezzo was sealed off in February after strong winds swept a 10ft long wooden plank from the side of a multi-storey car park.

Sainsbury's said: "We have removed the wooden planks to improve the exterior of the building. We will be bringing forward a revised design in the near future."

Chance to go wild

OXON: The 30 Days Wild challenge from the Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust takes place this month.

The challenge includes a host of events aimed at getting people closer to nature and runs until June 14.

People can find out more about bats, bees and the Oxford Swift Project, go pond dipping or take part in events at Shotover Woods.

For more information view bbowt.org.uk

Hospital fete fun

BICESTER: The community hospital annual fete will take place on July 1 between 1pm to 3pm.

It has been organised by the hospital's league of friends and will be opened by town mayor Les Sibley.

There will be plants, stalls, bric-a-brac and a book sale.

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The three-day, fun-fuelled extravaganza regularly attracts more than 100,000 visitors serving up a magical mix of classic cars, classic rock music plus tons of great family entertainment – it's certainly not just for petrolheads!

The non-stop on-track action features the cream of historic racing action from huge Formula 1, Sports Cars, GT and Touring Car grids – more nostalgic racing than you will see anywhere else in the world in one weekend!

Adding some extra star dust, this year's sparkling race card also includes a special Celebrity Challenge Trophy Race. Famous faces already confirmed include several Olympic gold medal winners including Jason Kenny and Amy Williams, Brian Johnson from AC/DC, former England cricket captain Mike Gatting and boxing legend Carl Froch.

Closing date: Sunday, July 16

Live music is one of the Classic's popular attractions. The Bootleg Beatles are topping the line-up on Friday while Saturday's bill includes former Spandau Ballet front-man Tony Hadley.

But the entertainment doesn't stop there. A vintage funfair, air displays, hot air balloons, streetcar shoot-outs, 4x4 passenger experiences, Spitfire demonstrations, crazy golf, a huge shopping village, an adrenaline zone and a live eBay restoration are all included in the cost of admission.

Indeed, all tickets include free entrance to racing paddocks, track-side grandstands plus the live music concerts and many of the activities. Adult admission is from just £43 and full details can be found on the www.silverstoneclassic.com website.

Win tickets!

To be in with a chance of winning go to the website and answer the following simple question.

Q: Tony Hadley was the lead singer of which chart-topping band? Spandau Ballet, Duran Duran or Human League?

SilverstoneClassic 28/29/30 JULY 2017

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Puzzles

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Two speed crossword

Quick Clues Across

4 Damage (6)
8 Worried (7)
9 Traps (6)
10 United under one authority (9)
11 Affirm (4)
13 Hit (5)
14 Surfeit with eating (7)
16 Compel (7)
18 Completely (5)
19 Consulted (4)
21 Squandered (9)
22 Happens (6)
23 Groups (7)
24 Tower (6)

Quick Clues Down

1 Wear away (9)
2 Classification in the mind (9)
3 Sweet substance (5)
5 Repair (4)
6 Achieve success (6)
7 Holiday town (6)
9 Work for (5)
11 Debates (9)
12 Having keen vision (5-4)
15 Blemishes (5)
16 Accompany (6)
17 Swordsman (6)
20 Wander (5)
21 At liberty (4)

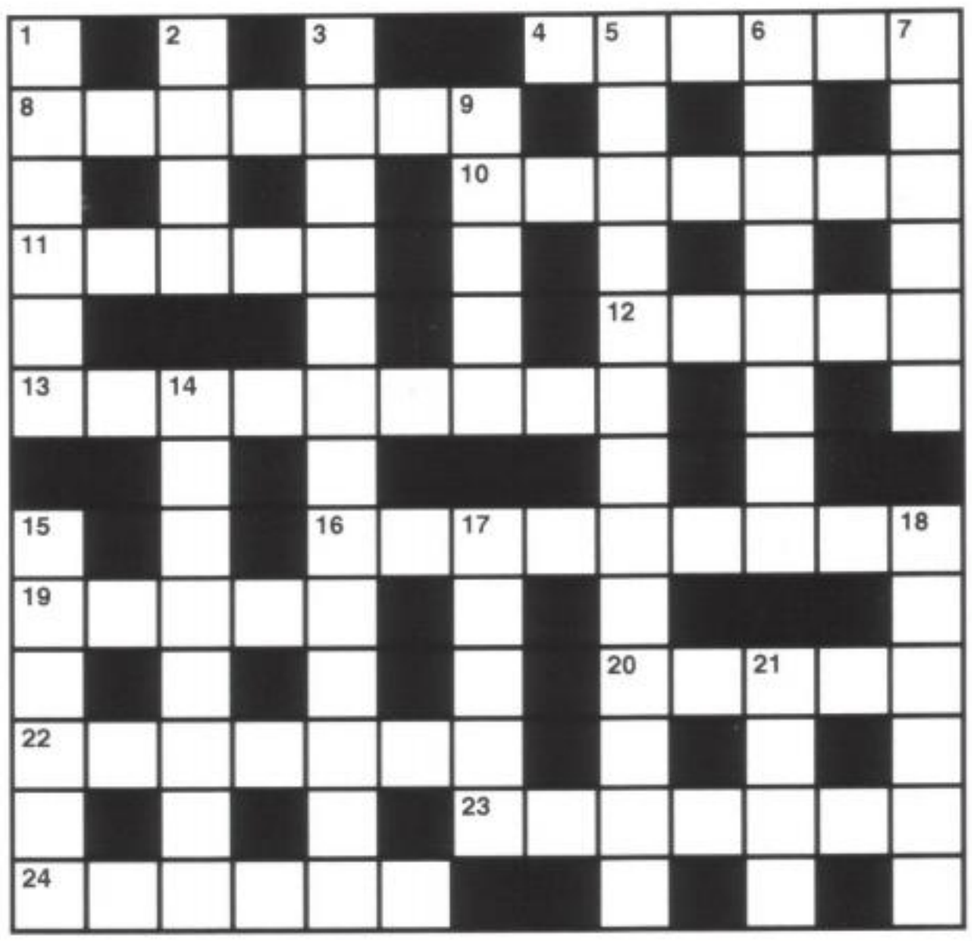
Scribble space

Cryptic Clues Across

4 An ill shot to play? (6)
8 Gathers the rest around after a back number (7)
9 Disclose a French woman's headdress (6)
19 Those in temporary possession steal back to the oarsmen (9)
11 But it isn't the sharp part of the knife (4)
13 Group of people mixed up in Tier B (5)
14 Listen and repeat the gossip (7)
16 Don't hate Pip when writing on his tombstone (7)
18 Rejecting no circle to throw out (5)
19 She has nothing in footwear (4)
21 Personified the natural surroundings of a vehicle (9)
22 Such foreigners as have a claim on some property? (6)
23 Go forward for a subsidy (7)
24 The plaything to look at now and in the past (6)

Cryptic Clues Down

1 The car has a curve for a signature (9)
2 Ascribe to a characteristic (9)
3 Expression produced by loud noise at start of night (5)
5 Takes nothing but the weights back in it (4)
6 There's nothing to spare about these performances (6)
7 It was said at his death he was a fine ole guy, in some way (6)
9 Encourages the impulses (5)
11 Broken art jar now in ancient conflict (6,3)
12 Ran up to the man in command with the nervous signs of those taking drugs (9)
15 Cuts back for trips in the car (5)
16 Tries to start yesterday in a fool's muddle (6)
17 I take nothing to eat for medicinal purposes (6)
20 Girls who help in the writing (5)
21 The armies of Spain captured and held the Indian nation (4)



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Simple steps homeowners can take now to protect their assets.

Head of April King Legal Paul King explains why some homeowners are doing **too little, too late** to protect their hard-earned assets.

Paul King, Head of April King Legal

Care Cost Fees

"A lot of people are still unaware that if they need care in later life, their assets will be means-tested by the Local Authority to help pay for these services."

"The Local Authority will look to use the assets of a person until they get down to a lower limit of £14,250, when the Local Authority will take over the fees."

"For instance, my own grandmother sadly passed away recently at the age of 92. My grandfather had died many years earlier and left everything to her."

"When she needed care in the last six years of her life, because my grandfather had left everything to her, the house and all the estate was counted in the Local Authority's means test."

"Our clients tell us, 'We've worked hard all our lives, why should the Local Authority get it all?'"

"Just as she died, she had gone down to that lower limit of £14,250 and that's all her children inherited."

"There are many myths about the steps people can take to protect their assets from being used like this."

"The main one is that a parent should simply sign their house over to the children now, so it won't be taken into consideration for means testing. That's just not true."

"Local Authorities will actually look to see if you've 'deliberately deprived' yourself of an asset by giving property away, going back over any period in time."

"Sometimes people think that if the gift is made seven years prior then the house is safe. This is not so as the seven-year rule only applies to Inheritance Tax and not Local Authority care."

"The solution is for couples to simply not leave everything to each other in the first place."

"What my grandfather could have done is leave his half of the house in trust to his children, stating that they couldn't have it while his wife, my grandmother, was still alive. We call these Property Trust Wills."

"If my grandfather had left his half of the house in trust to the children then when my grandmother subsequently received care in her later life she would only have been means tested on her own half of the house, but my grandfather's half would have been safe."

"Why should he have to contribute his half when he didn't receive any care?"

"The important factor is that couples need to act in advance. Once one party dies or loses mental capacity, through a stroke for example, then they are no longer in a position to do this legitimate and straightforward type of planning."

"It is therefore important for couples to act now even if they may not foresee care fees being an issue."

Paul goes on to explain that most clients he sees are surprised to learn remarriage usually cancels a Will and makes the spouse next in line to inherit, ahead of their own children! Protecting your half of the house in this way, he suggests, ensures that your children ultimately inherit when the survivor dies.

"Had my grandmother remarried after the death of my grandfather the whole estate could have passed sideways out of the family," says Paul.

Lasting Power of Attorney

Paul explains how people often get confused thinking that, because they have made a Will, their executors can also deal with assets if there is illness, stroke or some other form of incapacity while they are still alive.

"Everyone should actually have two documents – a Will that deals with their estate on death, and a Lasting Power of Attorney that deals with their estate during their lifetime," he says.

"There are two types of Lasting Power of Attorney – one deals with finance, the other deals with health and welfare."

"In many ways it's similar to a passport; a document that's registered now and one which can be physically handed to the attorneys should the need arise."

"It allows the attorneys, perhaps the children, to deal with the banks and pension companies etc should their parent become incapacitated, but also to deal with matters such as where the parent should be living and how they should receive care."

"Your attorneys, again perhaps your children, must legally act in your best interests at all times."

"You can choose a number of attorneys to act, either jointly or independently, and April King advises on the various options available."

"Couples are often surprised to discover that even joint bank accounts can be frozen until the bank sees sight of a Lasting Power of Attorney document."

"Having a Lasting Power of Attorney removes the burden on children should ill health happen further down the line."

"It helps a family deal with bank accounts and so on during a parent's lifetime and ceases on death."

"Crucially, you have to complete a Lasting Power of Attorney while you are still in good mental health."

"If someone becomes ill through say, a stroke or dementia, this option is lost and the family would have to apply for a Deputyship Order from the Court of Protection – a drawn out and expensive process."

"It is therefore a good idea for clients to plan ahead and remove any future burden from the family."

"Once again, all adults should be thinking of this, particularly when there are children or a business involved."

"It's not just something to think about when you get older, that's the challenge for us."

"People think, 'I'm not ill, why do I need to make a Power of Attorney?' But they're missing the point. This is a document that has to be done in advance."

"The Lasting Power of Attorney remains in place until you die unless you want to cancel it."

"Once it's registered, you don't have to worry if you then develop some debilitating illness. A burden has been removed from the family at an already difficult time."

Bloodline Trust Wills

The majority of April King's clients have already made standard 'Mirror Wills' with other firms before approaching the Firm. A Mirror Will is when a couple leave everything to each other on the first death, then to the children when the second partner dies. But modern family life means these type of Wills leave a lot to chance.

Explains Paul: "If I have a Mirror Will leaving everything to my wife and she remarries or goes into care after my death then either the new husband or the Local Authority are likely to inherit most, if not all, of my estate ahead of my children."

"Even if my children are named in my Mirror Will, it is by no means certain that they will inherit anything."

"Once again, this is because a remarriage would cancel the Will my wife had previously made with me and make the new husband next-of-kin."

"This often comes as a big shock to my clients who had perhaps thought that all was in order and that the family bloodline would one day inherit."

"The same is true for thinking that their children and/or grandchildren will one day benefit under a Mirror Will."

"If any of your children should die leaving everything to their husband or wife and that son-in-law or daughter-in-law should then remarry, then your grandchildren would be the ones to lose out under the line of inheritance."

"Worse still, someone else's grandchildren would be in line to receive the benefit of all your years of hard work."

"I've experienced this in my own family and I'm sure most people have had similar experiences or heard of someone who has."

"Bloodline Trust Wills give greater protection to your children."

"These type of Wills not only give your children complete control and access to the inheritance they receive from you, they also grant added protection from the twists and turns of modern family life."

"The wording in these Wills states that any money left over on their demise must pass to any children born of them – your grandchildren."

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April King has prepared a free information pack for readers of the Oxfordshire Guardian which is available by calling

01865 593081

Lines open Mon-Fri 8am-7pm,
Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 10am-2pm

You can also email **info@aprilking.co.uk** or visit www.aprilking.co.uk/infopack

April King Legal

April King has 20 offices across the Midlands.
Your local office is: Prama House, 267 Banbury Road, Summertown, Oxford, OX2 7HT

Puzzles

Sudoku

The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid with digits so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 sub-grids that compose the grid (also called "boxes", "blocks", "regions", or "sub-squares") contains all of the digits from 1 to 9. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid, which for a well-posed puzzle has a unique solution.

EASY/MEDIUM/HARD

		8	2	3		5	4	
3		2		1		8		7
	7				6			
7	3	5			9			4
1								6
4			7			3	9	2
			5				2	
9		3		6		4		8
	6	1		7	4	9		

6	8						9	3
		2	8		6	5		
		5				7		
5				3				9
		3	9		7	4		
7				4				1
		9				1		
		1	2		8	6		
4	7						8	2

8		3			6		5	
		6	1				7	
2					9			8
						9		6
	5						1	
3		4						
7			9					5
	6				8	1		
	8		5			7		2

This week's solutions

2	9	7	3	6	5	1	8	4
4	3	1	8	7	2	5	6	9
5	6	8	4	1	9	2	3	7
7	8	5	1	9	6	4	2	3
3	1	4	7	2	8	9	5	6
6	2	9	5	3	4	8	7	1
8	4	6	9	5	3	7	1	2
9	7	2	6	8	1	3	4	5
1	5	3	2	4	7	6	9	8

2	8	9	3	1	5	6	7	4
7	4	6	8	9	2	1	5	3
3	5	1	7	6	4	9	2	8
5	3	7	1	2	9	4	8	6
8	2	6	4	5	3	7	1	9
1	9	4	6	7	8	3	5	2
9	7	5	2	3	6	8	4	1
6	1	8	5	4	7	2	9	3
4	6	3	9	8	1	5	3	7

5	3	9	4	7	8	1	6	2
8	7	4	2	6	1	3	5	9
1	2	6	3	9	5	7	4	8
2	6	3	1	5	7	9	8	4
9	5	7	8	4	3	2	1	6
4	8	1	9	2	6	5	3	7
7	4	8	6	1	2	3	9	5
3	1	2	5	8	9	6	7	4
6	9	5	7	3	4	8	2	1

Quick Crossword

Across: 4 Impair 8 Anxious 9 Snares 10 Federated 11 Aver 13 Smite 14 Overeat 16 Enforce 18 Fully 19 Seen 21 Frittered 22 Occurs 23 Parties 24 Turret

Down: 1 Undermine 2 Digestion 3 Sugar 5 Mend. 6 Arrive 7 Resort 9 Serve 11 Arguments 12 Eagle-eyed 15 Scars 16 Escort 17 Fencer 20 Stray 21 Free

Cryptic Crossword

Across: 4 Stroke 8 Musters 9 Unveil 10 Borrowers 11 Tang 13 Tribe 14 Hearsay 16 Epitaph 18 Eject 19 Shoe 21 Incarnate 22 Aliens 23 Advance 24 Seesaw

Down: 1 Autograph 2 Attribute 3 Frown 5 Tons 6 Operas 7 Eulogy 9 Urges 11 Trojan war 12 Narcotics 15 Spins 16 Essays 17 Iodine 20 Maids 21 Inca

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Saturday June 10th

BBC1

Casualty, 8.45pm

DAYTIME 11.30 **Mary Berry Cooks** (S)(R) 12.00 **Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) 1.00 **BBC News;** Weather (S) 1.15 **Athletics: Diamond League Rome Highlights** (S) 2.15 **Escape to the Country** (S)(R) 3.15 **Money for Nothing** (S)(R) 4.15 **Pointless Celebrities** (S)(R) 5.05 **BBC News** (S) 5.15 **BBC Regional News; Weather** (S) 5.25 **FILM Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) (PG)** (S)

7 7.15 **Doctor Who** Victorian soldiers clash with dangerous Ice Warriors while seeking to conquer Mars. (S)

8 8.00 **Who Dares Wins** (S) 8.45 **Casualty** The Ellissons return to the ER after a right-wing rally at a Muslim community centre turns violent. (S)

9 9.30 **Mrs Brown's Boys** Agnes goes on a diet. (S)(R)

10 10.00 **BBC News; Weather;** (S) National Lottery Update (S) 10.20 **Would I Lie to You?** With Gareth Malone, Amanda Abbington, Richard Osman and Phil Jupitus. (S)(R)

11 10.50 **FILM Shanghai Noon (2000) (12)** Comedy Western, starring Jackie Chan and Owen Wilson. (S)

AFTER 12 12.35 **Weather for the Week Ahead** (S) 12.40 BBC News (S)

BBC2

Live International Rugby Union, 8pm

7.00 **FILM Dance, Girl, Dance (1940) (PG)** (S) 8.25 **FILM The Westerner (1940) (PG)** (S) 10.00 **Monty Halls' Great Hebridean Escape** 11.00 **Homes Under the Hammer** 12.00 **Great British Menu** 1.30 **Bette Davis: Talking Pictures** (S)(R) 2.15 **FILM Now, Voyager (1942) (PG)** (S) 4.10 **Flog It!** (S)(R) 5.00 **Gardeners' World** (S)(R) 6.00 **Great Continental Railway Journeys** (S) 6.30 **Dad's Army** (S)(R)

7.00 **Royal Academy Summer Exhibition 2017** Kirsty Wark and Brenda Emmanus preview this year's open-submission exhibition. (S)

8.00 **Live International Rugby Union** Argentina v England (kick-off 8.15pm). Jason Mohammad presents coverage of the opening match of the series. (S)

10.30 **Cricket: ICC Champions Trophy Highlights** England v Australia. (S)

11.20 **Versailles** Louis XIV returns to Versailles vowing to purify his private life. George Blagden and Anna Brewster star; (S)(R) **Inside Versailles.** (S)(R)

12.20 **FILM Elles (2011) (18)** Drama, starring Juliette Binoche. 1.55 This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

Live French Open Tennis, 1.30pm

6.00 **CITV** 8.25 **ITV News** (S) 8.30 **Weekend** (S) 9.25 **The Home Game** (S)(R) 10.20 **Griff's Great Britain** (S)(R) 10.50 **Britain's Got Talent Final** The climax of this year's nationwide talent search. (S)(R) 1.20 **ITV News;** Weather (S) 1.30 **Live French Open Tennis** John Inverdale presents coverage of the women's singles final. 4.30 **World Cup Qualifier Live** Scotland v England (kick-off 5.00pm). (S)

7.30 **ITV Regional News;** Weather (S)
7.35 **ITV News** (S)
7.45 **The Voice Kids** New series. Emma Willis presents the junior version of the talent contest. (S)

9.15 **FILM Horrible Bosses (2011) (15)** Premiere. Three unhappy employees hate their bosses, so decide to resort to murder. Comedy, starring Jason Bateman and Charlie Day. (S)

11.05 **ITV News;** Weather (S)
11.25 **World Cup Qualifier Highlights** Scotland v England. Action from the Group F fixture. (S)

12.25 **Tipping Point** (S)(R) 1.20 Jackpot247 3.00 Who's Doing the Dishes? (S)(R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen

Channel 4

Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson, 7pm

6.45 **Motor Sport: Mini Challenge** (S) 7.15 **Swansea Triathlon** (S) 7.40 **Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) 8.30 **Frasier** (S)(R) 10.00 **The Big Bang Theory** (S)(R) 11.25 **The Simpsons** (S)(R) 12.55 **Four in a Bed** (S)(R) 3.30 **A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun** (S)(R) 4.35 **Big House, Little House** (S) 5.35 **Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It** (S)(R) 6.30 **Channel 4 News** (S)

7.00 **Britain's Ancient Tracks with Tony Robinson** Tony follows the Ridgeway from the Wiltshire Downs to the banks of the Thames. (S)(R)

8.00 **FILM Iron Man (2008) (12)** Superhero adventure, starring Robert Downey Jr and Jeff Bridges. (S)

10.30 **Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights** Steve Jones presents action from Montreal, where the grid positions for the seventh round of the season were decided. (S)

12.00 **FILM Horns (2013) (15)** Horror, starring Daniel Radcliffe. (S) 2.05 Hollyoaks (S) 4.05 Ackley Bridge (S)(R) 5.00 Fifteen to One (S)(R) 5.55 3rd Rock from the Sun (S)(R)

Channel 5

Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away, 7pm

6.00 **Milkshake!** 10.05 **Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles** (S)(R) 10.40 **The Gadget Show** Gadgets for this summer's festivals. (S)(R) 11.35 **Police Interceptors** (S)(R) 2.30 **FIA Formula E Live** The first Berlin ePrix race. (S) 4.15 **Nightmare Tenants, Slum Landlords** Council officers investigate a residential home being used as a brothel. (S)(R) 5.15 **The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door** (S)(R)

7.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away** Paul and Ben try to drill through the locks on a property to evict the residents. (S)(R)

8.00 **Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away** Agents try to collect nearly £2,500 in unpaid parking fines. (S)(R)
8.55 **5 News Weekend** (S)

9.00 **Big Brother** Daily round-up of highlights, revealing the housemates' reactions to the first eviction, as well as arguments, laughs and diary room visits. (S)

10.05 **Best of Bad TV: The 90s** A look at the decade that brought many opportunities for eye-popping errors. (S)(R)

11.35 **Lip Sync Battle UK: Peter Andre vs Gino D'Acampo** Hosted by Melanie Brown and Professor Green. (S)(R)

12.00 **SuperCasino** 3.10 **FILM Austin Powers: International Man of Mystery (1997) (15)** Spoof spy adventure, starring Mike Myers. (S) 4.50 House Doctor (S)(R) 5.15 Wildlife SOS (S)(R) 5.40 Angels of Jarm (S)(R) 5.50 Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

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DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Vicky Pattison: The Hot Desk **6.10** Emmerdale **8.35** Coronation Street **11.00** Take Me Out **12.25** Take Me Out – The Gossip **1.30** You've Been Framed! Gold: The Next Generation **2.35** FILM: What a Girl Wants (2003) (PG) Comedy, starring Amanda Bynes. **3.35** FYI Daily **3.40** FILM: What a Girl Wants (2003) (PG) Concluded. **4.40** FILM: Happy Feet (2006) (U) Animated adventure, with the voice of Elijah Wood. **5.40** FYI Daily **5.45** FILM: Happy Feet (2006) (U) Concluded. **6.50** FILM: Sweet Home Alabama (2002) (12) Romantic comedy, starring Reese Witherspoon and Josh Lucas. **7.50** FYI Daily **7.55** FILM: Sweet Home Alabama (2002) (12) Concluded. **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot List **10.00** Celebrity Juice **10.45** Family Guy **12.15** American Dad! **1.10** Celebrity Juice: Bestest Bits 2017 **2.10** Through the Keyhole **3.00** Teleshopping

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Murder, She Wrote **7.50** FILM: The Nun's Story (1959) (PG) Drama, starring Audrey Hepburn. **8.50** FYI Daily **8.55** FILM: The Nun's Story (1959) (PG) Concluded. **10.50** A Touch of Frost **12.55** Lewis **3.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Law & Order: UK **2.00** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Natural World Special: Attenborough's Ark **8.00** Nature's Great Events **9.00** Cardinal **10.25** Top of the Pops: 1984 **11.40** Metal at the BBC **12.10** Britain's Most Dangerous Songs: Listen to the Banned **1.10** More Dangerous Songs: And the Banned Played On **2.10** Meat Loaf: In and Out of Hell **3.10** Metal at the BBC **3.40** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 The Goldbergs **7.05** Couples Come Dine with Me **9.05** Melissa & Joey **11.30** The Goldbergs **1.25** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **2.25** FILM: The Core (2003) (12) Sci-fi thriller, starring Aaron Eckhart. **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** FILM: Pitch Perfect (2012) (12) Comedy, starring Anna Kendrick. **11.15** Gogglebox **1.25** Rude Tube **3.20** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.05** First Dates Abroad **4.30** New Girl

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Four in a Bed **11.35** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away **1.40** Location, Location, Location **2.40** Come Dine with Me **5.15** Four in a Bed **7.55** Rivers with Jeremy Paxman **9.00** It Was Alright in the 1970s **11.05** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **1.15** It Was Alright in the 1970s **3.15** 8 Out of 10 Cats Uncut **4.00** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 Gideon of Scotland Yard (1958) (PG) Police drama, starring Jack Hawkins. **1.00** School of Rock (2003) (PG) Comedy, starring Jack Black. **3.10** Carry On Nurse (1959) (PG) Comedy, starring Hattie Jacques. **4.55** Night at the Museum (2006) (PG) Fantasy comedy, starring Ben Stiller. **7.05** Unstoppable (2010) (12) Tony Scott's action thriller, with Denzel Washington and Chris Pine. **9.00** Red 2 (2013) (12) Action thriller sequel, starring Bruce Willis. **11.15** Legion (2010) (15) Action fantasy, starring Paul Bettany. **1.15** The French Connection (1971) (18) Oscar-winning fact-based crime thriller, starring Gene Hackman. **3.30** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

6.00 Home Shopping **7.10** Deadly 60 **8.30** Top Gear **11.35** Red Bull Soapbox Race **12.35** Sin City Motors **2.35** Top Gear **5.00** Traffic Cops **7.00** Top Gear **8.00** Dynamo: Magician Impossible **9.00** Would I Lie to You? **11.00** Dave Gorman: Modern Life Is Goodish **12.00** QI XL **1.00** Would I Lie to You? **2.50** Game of Arms **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.10 Secret Army **11.00** Sharpe **1.00** Secret Army **5.00** Open All Hours **7.00** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **8.00** Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries **9.00** Taggart **11.55** Waking the Dead **2.20** Hetty Wainthropp Investigates **3.15** Garden Hopping **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Ashley Banjo's Secret Street Crew **7.00** International Rugby Union **8.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **12.00** The F1 Show **12.30** David Attenborough's Wild City **1.30** Futurama **4.00** Modern Family **6.30** The Simpsons **7.00** MacGyver **8.00** Rugby's Funniest Moments **9.00** A League of Their Own: US Road Trip 2.0 **10.00** The Late Late Show with James Corden **1.00** Road Wars **2.00** Jamestown **3.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize **5.00** Zoo Tales

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 The British **7.00** Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer **9.00** Urban Secrets **10.00** Nothing Left Unsaid: Gloria Vanderbilt & Anderson **12.00** House **3.00** Without a Trace **8.00** Blue Bloods **9.00** Game of Thrones **10.10** FILM: The Wizard of Lies (2017) Drama, starring Robert De Niro. **12.40** FILM: The Immortal Life Of Henrietta Lacks (2017) Drama, starring Oprah Winfrey. **2.30** Game of Thrones **3.35** Nurse Jackie **4.05** Urban Secrets **5.00** Storm City

W SKY: 109

6.10 Judge Faith **7.00** Inside the Ambulance **8.00** The Bill **1.00** EastEnders **3.30** Tom Kerridge's Best Ever Dishes **4.00** Extreme Makeover: Home Edition **6.00** My Family **8.00** One Born Every Minute **9.00** FILM: Cold Mountain (2003) (15) Period drama, starring Nicole Kidman and Jude Law. **12.00** Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders **12.50** Grimm **1.45** Judge Faith **2.35** Betty White's Off Their Rockers **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.30 The Two Ronnies **9.00** One Foot in the Grave **9.40** Last of the Summer Wine **11.40** The Two Ronnies **12.30** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** Citizen Khan **11.00** Black Books **12.15** Monty Python: Live at Aspen **1.35** Steve Coogan as Alan Partridge and Other Less Successful Characters **3.20** Black Books **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Live International Rugby Union. Australia v Fiji (kick-off 6.00am). Coverage of the Test match, which takes place at AAMI Park in Melbourne. **8.00** Live International Rugby Union. Crusaders v British & Irish Lions (kick-off 8.35am). Coverage of the third game of the Lions tour, which takes place at AMI Stadium in Christchurch. **11.00** International Rugby Union **11.30** Rugby Gold **12.00** Football Gold **1.00** International Rugby Union **3.30** One2Eleven: Paul Gascoigne **4.00** Live International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers. Scotland v England (kick-off 5.00pm). Coverage of the Group F fixture, which takes place at Hampden Park. **7.40** Live International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers. Germany v San Marino (kick-off 7.45pm). Coverage of the Group C fixture, which takes place at the Grundig-Stadion in Nuremberg. **9.40** International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers **10.40** International Rugby Union **12.45** International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers **2.45** Sporting Triumphs **3.00** Premier League Years **5.00** Premier League 100 Club **5.30** Spanish Football Gold

Sunday June 11th

BBC1

9.00 The Andrew Marr Show (S) **10.00 Sunday Politics** (S) **11.15 The Big Questions** (S) **12.15 Bargain Hunt** (S)(R) **1.00 BBC News;** Weather (S) **1.15 Homes Under the Hammer** (S)(R) **2.15 Money for Nothing** (S)(R) **3.00 Flog It!** (S)(R) **4.00 Escape to the Country** (S)(R) **4.45 Points of View** (S) **5.00 Songs of Praise** (S) **5.35 Eat Well for Less?** (S)(R) **6.35 BBC News** (S) **6.50 BBC Regional News; Weather** (S)

7.00 Countryfile In Northern Ireland, Joe Crowley helps members of the RSPB tag swifts in woodlands near Belfast. (S)

8.00 Antiques Roadshow Fiona Bruce presents a second show from New Lanark on the banks of the Clyde. (S)

9.00 Poldark New series. The drama returns as Ross tries to rebuild Nampara and his relationship with Demelza, but Elizabeth's pregnancy casts a shadow over the pair's marriage. (S)

10.00 BBC News (S)
10.20 BBC Regional News (S)
10.30 FILM Captain America: The Winter Soldier (2014) (12) Comic-book thriller sequel, starring Chris Evans. (S)

12.35 Weather for the Week Ahead (S) **12.40** BBC News (S)

BBC2

6.15 The Instant Gardener A neglected backyard in Birmingham. (S)(R) **7.05 Gardeners' World** (S)(R) **8.05 The Beechgrove Garden** (S) **8.35 Countryfile** (S)(R) **9.30 Saturday Kitchen Best Bites** (S) **11.00 Great British Menu** (S)(R) **12.00 Sailing: America's Cup Highlights** (S) **1.00 Triathlon: World Championship Series – Leeds** (S) **6.00 The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway** (S)(R)

7.00 Dragons' Den The panel casts their eyes over plans for an innovative tool and a portable water-saving device. Evan Davis presents. (S)(R)

8.00 The Life Swap Adventure A Guyanese hunter from a rural village in the Amazon rainforest trades places with a civil servant from London. (S)

9.00 Paul Hollywood's Big Continental Road Trip The Bake Off judge concludes his trip in France. Last in the series. (S)

10.00 Mock the Week: Election Special With Angela Barnes, Ed Gamble, James Acaster, Milton Jones and Tez Ilyas. (S)(R)
10.30 White Gold Vincent receives a visit from a tax inspector. (S)(R)

11.00 Cricket: ICC Champions Trophy Highlights (S)
11.50 FILM Kings of Curry (2013) (12) Comedy, starring Amara Karan. In English and Hindi.

1.10 Sign Zone: Countryfile (S)(R) **2.05** Holby City (S)(R) **3.05** This Is BBC Two (S)

ITV

6.00 CITV 8.25 ITV News (S) **8.30 Weekend** (S) **9.25 Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury** (S)(R) **10.00 Peston on Sunday** (S) **11.00 Judge Rinder** (S)(R) **11.55 The Voice Kids** (S)(R) **1.25 ITV News;** Weather (S) **1.30 Live French Open Tennis** John Inverdale presents coverage of the men's singles final on the 15th day. **6.30 ITV Regional News;** Weather (S) **6.45 ITV News** (S)

7.00 Vera DCI Stanhope investigates a murder at a remote country house. (S)(R)

9.00 The Loch New series. The search for a serial killer sends a small community into shock and detective Annie Redford tries to cope with her first murder case. Drama, starring Laura Fraser. (S)

10.00 ITV News; Weather (S)
10.20 World Cup Qualifier Highlights Action from the latest round of qualifying fixtures, including Scotland v England and Serbia v Wales. (S)

11.35 Peston on Sunday Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston, featuring reports on the latest issues and interviews with topical guests. (S)(R)

12.35 Lethal Weapon (S)(R) **1.30** Jackpot247 **3.00** Motorsport UK (S) **3.50** ITV Nightscreen **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show (S)(R)

Channel 4

6.20 3rd Rock from the Sun (S)(R) **6.45 Everybody Loves Raymond** (S)(R) **7.35 Frasier** (S)(R) **8.55 Eating Well with Hemsley + Hemsley** (S) **9.30 Sunday Brunch** (S) **12.30 Eat the Week** (S) **1.30 George Clarke's Amazing Spaces** (S)(R) **2.30 FILM The Devil Wears Prada (2006) (PG)** (S) **4.40 A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun** (S)(R) **5.40 Homes by the Sea** (S) **6.35 Channel 4 News** (S)

7.00 A Very British Hotel Behind the scenes at London's Mandarin Oriental Hyde Park. (S)(R)

8.00 Cabins in the Wild with Dick Strawbridge The competition to find the ultimate cabin in the wild concludes. Last in the series. (S)

9.00 The Handmaid's Tale Offred accompanies Serena Joy on a visit to see Ofwarren's baby, and is later interrogated by an Eye and Aunt Lydia about her knowledge of Ofglen. (S)

10.15 Formula 1: Hamilton Vs Vettel A look at the rivalry between Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel. (S)
10.30 Formula 1: Canadian Grand Prix Highlights (S)

12.35 Grand Prix: The Killer Years (S)(R) **1.35** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (S)(R) **2.25** Location, Location, Location (S)(R) **3.20** KOTV Boxing Weekly (S) **3.45** Gillette World Sport (S) **4.10** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb (S) **5.05** Fifteen to One (S)(R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (S)(R) **10.40 FILM Agent Cody Banks (2003) (12)** (S) **12.40 Police Interceptors** (S)(R) **1.35 Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuits 2** (S)(R) **2.30 FIA Formula E Live** (S) **4.15 FILM Footloose (1984) (15)** (S) **6.25 FILM Dirty Dancing (2017) (12)** Premiere. Musical remake of the romantic drama, starring Abigail Breslin. (S)

8.55 5 News Weekend (S)

9.00 Big Brother Daily round-up of highlights, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chit-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley. (S)

10.00 FILM Friends with Kids (2011) (15) Premiere. Comedy, directed by and starring Jennifer Westfeldt. With Adam Scott. Includes 5 News Update at 11.00pm. (S)

12.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away (S)(R) **1.05** SuperCasino **3.10 FILM Fighter Attack (1953) (U)** (S) **4.35** Access (S) **4.50** House Doctor (S)(R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS (S)(R) **5.40** Angels of Jarm (S)(R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car (S)(R)

DIGITAL

ITV2 SKY: 118 FV: 6

6.00 Planet's Funniest Animals **6.10** You've Been Framed! Gold **6.35** Emmerdale **9.15** Coronation Street **11.50** FILM: The Flintstones (1994) (U) **12.50** FYI Daily **12.55** FILM: The Flintstones (1994) (U) **1.35** FILM: St Trinian's (2007) (12) **2.35** FYI Daily **2.40** FILM: St Trinian's (2007) (12) **3.30** The Voice Kids **5.00** FILM: Despicable Me 2 (2013) (U) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** FILM: Despicable Me 2 (2013) (U) **7.00** FILM: Coyote Ugly (2000) (12) Comedy drama, starring Piper Perabo. **8.00** FYI Daily **8.05** FILM: Coyote Ugly (2000) (12) Concluded. **9.00** Love Island **10.00** Love Island: Aftersun **11.05** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **1.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records: Bonkingly Big Hits **2.20** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen

ITV3 SKY: 119 FV: 10

6.00 Agatha Christie's Marple **7.45** Heartbeat **9.55** Murder, She Wrote **12.05** FILM: Death on the Nile (1978) (PG) **1.05** FYI Daily **1.10** FILM: Death on the Nile (1978) (PG) **2.55** Foyle's War **5.00** Midsomer Murders **7.00** When Phillip Met Prince Philip: 60 Years of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award **8.00** Paul O'Grady's Animal Orphans **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Japan **10.00** Law & Order: UK **12.00** Wire in the Blood **3.25** May the Best House Win **5.10** On the Buses **5.35** ITV3 Nightscreen

BBC4 SKY: 116 FV: 9

7.00 Nigel Slater: Life Is Sweets **8.00** The Secret Life of the Motorway **9.00** Horizon: Secrets of the Solar System **10.00** Inside God's Observatory: A Sky at Night Special **10.30** Britain's Star Men: Heroes of Astronomy **11.30** Horizon: 40 Years on the Moon **12.30** Nature's Great Events **1.30** Engineering Giants: Ferry Strip-Down **2.30** Britain's Star Men: Heroes of Astronomy **3.30** Close

E4 SKY: 136 FV: 28

6.00 Baby Daddy **6.25** Couples Come Dine with Me **8.25** Hollyoaks **11.00** New Girl **11.30** Kevin Can Wait **12.00** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **12.30** FILM: Turner & Hooch (1989) (PG) **2.30** The Goldbergs **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** FILM: Star Trek (2009) (12) Sci-fi adventure, starring Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto. **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **10.00** Rude Tube **11.00** Gogglebox **1.10** 8 Out of 10 Cats **2.00** Rude Tube **2.55** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **3.40** Hollyoaks

MORE4 SKY: 138 FV: 14

8.55 Location, Location, Location **9.55** Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb **11.00** Grand Designs New Zealand **12.05** Come Dine with Me **2.35** Four in a Bed **5.20** Come Dine with Me **8.00** The Secret Life of the Zoo **9.00** Car SOS **10.00** Father Ted **11.05** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **12.05** Ramsay's Hotel Hell **1.05** Father Ted **2.15** 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown **3.15** 8 Out of 10 Cats Uncut **3.50** Close

FILM4 SKY: 315 FV: 15

11.00 ParaNorman (2012) (PG) **1.00** The Seeker: The Dark Is Rising (2007) (12) **3.00** Epic (2013) (U) Animated adventure, with the voice of Amanda Seyfried. **5.05** Vice Versa (1988) (PG) Fantasy comedy, starring Judge Reinhold and Fred Savage. **7.00** Ride Along (2014) (12) Police comedy, starring Ice Cube and Kevin Hart. **9.00** Escape Plan (2013) (15) Prison thriller, with Sylvester Stallone and Arnold Schwarzenegger. **11.15** Oldboy (2013) (18) Thriller remake, starring Josh Brolin. **1.20** Blue Valentine (2010) (15) **3.40** Close

DAVE SKY: 111 FV: 12

6.00 Home Shopping **7.10** Trawlermen **8.00** Top Gear **10.00** Sin City Motors **11.00** Traffic Cops **1.00** Top Gear **3.30** The Joy of Techs **4.30** Dara O Briain's Go 8 Bit **5.30** Go 8 Bit: DLC **6.00** Red Bull Soapbox Race **7.00** Top Gear **8.00** Traffic Cops **9.00** QI XL **10.00** Taskmaster **11.00** Reginald D Hunter Live **12.20** Live at the Apollo **1.25** Mock the Week **2.00** QI **2.30** Suits **3.15** Game of Arms **4.00** Home Shopping

DRAMA SKY: 158 FV: 20

7.00 The Bill **10.45** Sense and Sensibility **2.45** Catherine Cookson's The Man Who Cried **5.45** The Musketeers **7.00** The Mrs Bradley Mysteries **8.00** Mercy Street **9.00** Silent Witness **11.20** Spooks **12.40** Taggart **3.20** Garden Hopping **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY1 SKY: 106

6.00 Hour of Power **7.00** Ashley Banjo's Secret Street Crew **8.00** Futurama **10.30** Game Changers **11.00** WWE Raw Hlts **12.00** David Attenborough's Wild City **1.00** David Attenborough's Galapagos **4.00** Modern Family **6.30** The Simpsons **8.00** A League of Their Own: US Road Trip 2.0. James Corden, Jamie Redknapp, Jack Whitehall and Andrew Flintoff go on another adventure across America, competing in a series of challenges from LA to New York. **9.00** Hawaii Five-0 **10.00** NCIS: Los Angeles **11.00** MacGyver **12.00** A League of Their Own: US Road Trip 2.0 **1.00** The Blacklist **2.00** Air Ambulance ER **3.00** Most Daring **4.00** Stop, Search, Seize **5.00** Zoo Tales

SKY ATLANTIC SKY: 108

6.00 Networks of Power with Sir Christopher Meyer **9.00** Urban Secrets **11.00** House **2.00** FILM: Becoming Mike Nichols (2016) A look at the life and work of filmmaker Mike Nichols. **3.20** Magician: Astonishing Life Of Orson Welles **5.00** Blue Bloods **10.00** Real Time with Bill Maher **11.10** Last Week Tonight with John Oliver **11.45** Twin Peaks: The Return **12.55** Game of Thrones **2.00** Twin Peaks: The Return **3.10** The Borgias **4.10** Storm City

W SKY: 109

6.00 Boston's Finest **6.40** Your Home in Their Hands **8.00** Tipping Point: Lucky Stars **1.00** Doctor Who **2.00** My Family **4.00** Outnumbered **6.00** The Blue Planet **7.00** David Attenborough's Natural Curiosities **8.00** One Born Every Minute **9.00** Criminal Minds: Beyond Borders **10.00** Louis Theroux's LA Stories **11.25** Ordinary Lies **12.35** Boston's Finest **1.25** Grimm **2.10** Boston's Finest **3.00** Home Shopping

GOLD SKY: 110

7.00 One Foot in the Grave **7.30** Bob Monkhouse: Million Joke Man **8.40** Only Fools and Horses **4.00** Citizen Khan **6.00** Only Fools and Horses **9.00** Citizen Khan **11.00** I'm Alan Partridge **12.20** The Thick of It **1.40** Limmy's Show **2.50** The Armando Iannucci Shows **3.20** I'm Alan Partridge **4.00** Home Shopping

SKY SPORTS 1 SKY: 401

6.00 Football Gold **6.45** Football League Gold **7.00** Premier League Years **9.00** International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers **10.00** Premier League Years **12.00** International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers **1.00** International Rugby Union **4.00** International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers **4.30** Live International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers. **7.15** Live International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers. Serbia v Wales (kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers **10.30** One2Eleven: Ryan Giggs **10.45** One2Eleven: Joe Cole **11.00** Premier League Legends **12.00** International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers **1.00** Football's Greatest Teams **2.00** International Football: FIFA World Cup 2018 Qualifiers **3.00** Premier League Years

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LOWER RADLEY, NR ABINGDON £129,950
(3 miles Abingdon, 4 miles Oxford)

A 2000 Homeseeker Langdale 36' x 20' twin unit on small private park. Hall, lounge/dining room, kitchen, 2 bedrooms (main bedroom with en-suite shower room), bathroom, LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed windows and doors, Decra style roof, textured walls, brick built skirt and steps, gardens with on-site car parking space

HORSPATH PARK, HORSPATH £99,950
(5 miles east Oxford centre)

A 1987 Omar Princess Special 26' x 19' twin unit pleasantly located on established private park. Inner hall, 19' lounge/diner L-shaped, kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with coloured suite, LPG gas radiator central heating, recently installed UPVC double glazed replacement windows and doors by Prestige Developments, Decra style roof, on-site car parking space, gardens, additional communal car parking nearby

KINGS COPSE, GARSINGTON £119,950
(4 miles east Oxford centre)

A superbly presented and skilfully updated mid 1970's Stately Blenheim 26' x 20' twin unit on good corner plot. Superb 25' lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, inner hall, bedroom, luxury bathroom, metered LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazed replacement windows, new internal walls, coved ceilings, imitation tiled roof, attractive gardens, on-site car parking space

ST MARY'S COURT, BAMPTON £185,000
(4 miles Witney, 12 miles Oxford)

A superbly presented 2011 Tingdene Muslo Lodge 42' x 20' twin unit pleasantly situated on this established and popular private park. Porch hall, superb L-shaped lounge/diner, study, fitted kitchen, 2 bedrooms (main bedroom with dressing room adjoining), luxury bathroom/shower room, LPG gas radiator central heating, wood-effect flooring throughout, UPVC double glazed Georgian style windows and doors, textured external walls, Decra style roof, brick built skirt and steps, gravelled driveway and gravelled car parking space, low maintenanc gardens

TUDOR COURT, BOTLEY £127,500
(3 miles west Oxford)

A well presented 1987 Tingdene Villa 36' x 20' twin unit on sought after private park. Hall, lounge, kitchen, 2 bedrooms, bedroom 3/study, bathroom with coloured suite, mains gas radiator central heating, Decra style roof, UPVC double glazed replacement windows, on-site car parking space, gardens

THE WILLOWS, GROVE £127,500
(2 miles Wantage, 12 miles Oxford)

A mid 1990s Stately 40' x 20' twin unit set in good sized gardens with open views to rear on established private park. Porch, hall, 20' lounge, dining room, kitchen, 2 good bedrooms, bathroom, UPVC double glazing, mains gas radiator central heating via modern combi boiler, Decra style roof, brick built skirt, gardens with open views, communal car parking nearby

SANDFORD ON THAMES £189,950
(4 miles Oxford)

N.B: EXAMPLE OF STYLE AVAILABLE, NOT ACTUAL HOME!
A brand new Stately Albion Tredegar 36' x 20' twin unit on well-located popular park. Porch, hall, lounge, kitchen/dining room, 2 bedrooms (main bedroom with en-suite shower room), bathroom, UPVC double glazing, LPG gas radiator central heating, Decra style roof, textured walls, brick built skirt and steps, gardens, on-site car parking space

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NEW LOOK PARK, CARTERTON £120,000
(5 miles Witney, 15 miles Oxford)

A 2016 Tingdene 42' x 10' single unit set in low maintenance gardens with gated driveway on small private park. Hall, lounge, kitchen/diner, 2 bedrooms, bathroom, LPG gas radiator central heating, UPVC double glazing, Decra style roof, brick built skirt and steps, gardens, floor coverings, curtains, integrated appliances and furnishings all included in the price

Jesus said, "With God all things are possible"

Matthew 19:26

No 10 key to housing market

Exceptional circumstances aside, you can't have missed that an election is looming – yes, another one! We've already written about the fact that, despite the natural uncertainty an election can bring to the housing market, current conditions are such that there's little reason to suggest it should derail your buying or selling plans.

And whilst the polls would suggest relative certainty that Theresa May will be handed back the keys to Number 10 on June 9, we decided to look back and see what impact recent Prime Ministers had on house prices in the Oxford area.

It may come as little surprise that during the 10-year tenure of Tony Blair, there was the greatest period of house price increases. It was a time of strong economic growth which was driven largely by significant expansion within the financial services sector. Credit was widely available and there were low levels of house building leading to low supply and high demand. During this time, average house price growth in Oxford stood at 11.5 per cent, reaching a peak of 24.4 per cent in 2000.

Of course, Blair stepped aside just as the economy became gloomy. Mortgage availability reduced dramatically and the credit crunch took hold in 2007. This means that under Gordon Brown's tenure, the average property price growth in Oxford was in fact negative at an average of -1.4 per cent (although it hit as much as -9.7 per cent in 2009).

The coalition government which followed existed while the economy recovered from the credit crunch and so under David Cameron's initial tenure there was average annual growth of 7 per cent which peaked at 9.9 per cent in 2014.

And then last year, just one year in to his majority government and following the Brexit vote, David Cameron stepped aside and Theresa May took centre stage. With less than one year's data for her premiership it might be foolish to suggest what her impact on property prices may be, although to date it would certainly suggest continued growth.

But is it indeed generally foolish to suggest that these patterns of growth (or decline) are down to who held the keys to Number 10 at the time? We know that the economy, and therefore by default the housing market, works in a cyclical manner where boom is followed by bust. Is it, therefore, fairer to suggest that these patterns are in fact reflective of the economic cycle, rather than an individual's ability to influence house prices?

What happens next remains to be seen. Brexit will almost certainly, to some extent, have an influence and your view on that will be driven by which side of the remain/leave camp you sit on. None of us have a crystal ball, but if you're looking for considered, expert advice and genuine knowledge of the property market in and around Oxfordshire, visit one of our branches throughout the county, or visit us online at www.andrewsonline.co.uk

Charming detached Grade II cottage a real catch in thatch

Set in a tucked away position in the heart of beautiful Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, this charming Grade II listed, detached, thatched cottage comes to market with no onward chain.

Internally the property is in excellent order throughout, with a modern kitchen and bathroom next to period features such as exposed beams and fabulous fireplaces.

The thatch is approximately eight years old, a new central heating system was installed in 2015 with cast iron radiators and the principle chimney has been 'ceramic lined' for fire safety.

The cottage would ideally suit a buyer looking for a quiet village location yet still retain the ability to commute, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell is one of the prettiest villages in South Oxfordshire and Didcot railway station is just 3.5 miles away.

There are exciting current plans - which were granted planning permission in August 2016 - to significantly extend to the rear, plans can be viewed on southoxon.gov.uk planning ref: P16/S2632/LB.

To arrange a viewing contact selling agent Davis Tate Wallingford 01491 833323 or e-mail wallingford@davistate.com

A guide price of £750,000

Commisery vs. home sale regret – which estate agency model is best? – Part Two

Bill Cooper, co-author of The Oxford Property Blog and managing director of Martin and Co, Oxford

This article follows last weeks, and is the second of two articles that considers the pros and cons of online and traditional estate agency business models. This week, I will consider the true cost of each model, the relative importance of maximising the price achieved vs. reducing the costs involved; and, how agents secure a price premium.

Is the online offer as cost competitive as it appears?

On first look, the online offer looks unbelievably cheap, and hence the Purplebrick's marketing focus on 'commisery'. But, is it really that much more efficient? A good-performing traditional estate agent expects to sell around 65% of the properties it lists, and clients only pay a fee if they sell. According to a recent survey, online agents average up to 50%. That means that half of online agent clients will pay a fee but will not achieve a sale. Of those that don't sell, 17% go on to appoint a traditional agent to sell their property.

Per 100 properties listed, an online agent in Oxford will receive fees on every property. At the current average of £995 that's £99,500 in fees. If only 50 of the properties sell, that's £2,000 per property sold. For the traditional Oxford agent mentioned above with average fees of 1% of sale price, 65 properties will sell at an average fee of £4,085 per property sold.

Based on this, the online model under-cuts the traditional model by 50% per property sold in the current market. But that is achievable only because clients whose houses fail to sell, effectively subsidise those whose houses sell. Great news for sellers who sell, but very bad news for those who don't, many of whom then appoint a traditional agent anyway.

What's more important sale price or agent fee?

Because an average Oxford property costs £408,500, each 1% extra achieved on a home's sale price delivers around £4,000 of additional return for the seller. That means an accepted offer at 95% of the asking price for an average Oxford property is £388,000 or £20,400 below asking price. It seems to me entirely fair to assume that an agent whose fee is proportional to the price achieved will have more incentive to try to maximise the sale price, rather than encouraging their client to settle for a 'good' offer because their fee has already been paid.

An agent that negotiates hard on behalf of their client, achieving offers from multiple parties will achieve a 2 to 4% premium. Let's assume a 3% premium is secured on the above property resulting in a sale price of £400,000, that's a price premium of £12,000. Where the traditional agent fee is 1% (a typical level for Oxford) their fee will be £4,000, resulting in a net gain for the client of over £7,000 (having allowed for the online agent fee of £995). So, despite paying a fee four times the value of the online agents, the client is over £7,000 in profit. It is this fact which is causing questions to be asked about the online agency model. Can a model where the fee is paid up-front, really encourage that agent to strive to achieve the 3% premium described above.

Selling an Oxford home is all about maximising the price you achieve

Homes in Oxford are expensive, securing the best possible price is THE most important factor. When 1% of an average home equates to over £4,000, working with an agent you trust, and who will work with you to maximise the sale price in the way you want is the most important factor and will outweigh any saving on the estate agents fee.

It seems to me that every seller should focus on maximising the sale price they achieve and ensuring that a buying chain is nurtured across the line so sales complete rather than worrying about saving money of fees. Personally, I am uncomfortable with the payment of an up-front fee rather than paying only for success. Estate agents should have their financial incentives aligned to their clients' interests. In Oxford achieving a 2% to 4% increase on achieved price far outweighs a saving on estate agent fee. Make sure your agent has earned their fee by going above and beyond on your behalf.

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Shipon £395,000

This property will appeal to families who are looking to be part of village life whilst remaining within 2 miles of Abingdon. Awaiting EPC Rating.

Abingdon £270,000

A characterful two bedroom town centre property with private courtyard garden and parking. EPC Rating G.

Abingdon £269,950

Two bedroom terraced house in North Abingdon, popular due to its proximity to Abingdon town centre within 1.5 miles. Awaiting EPC Rating.

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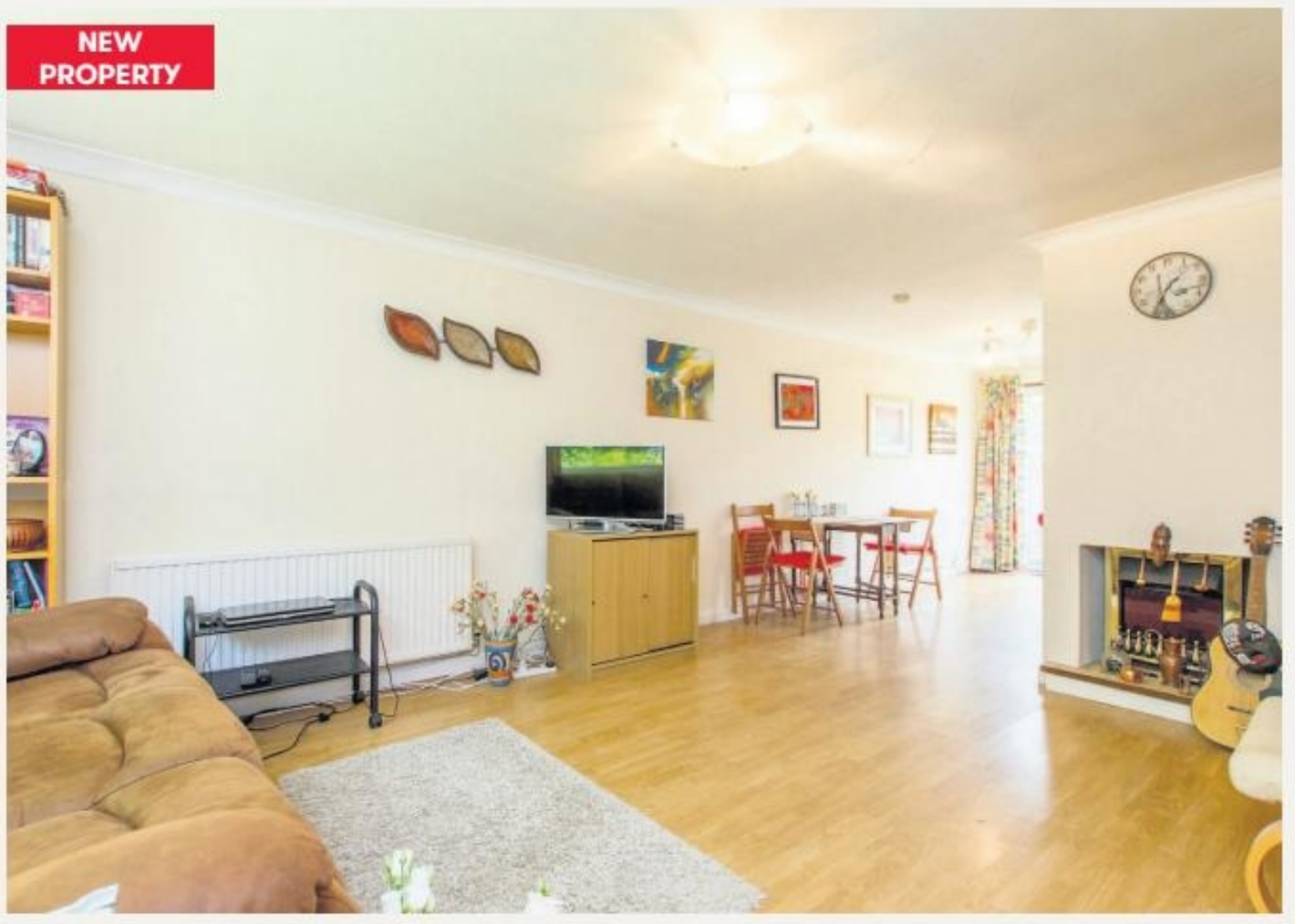

Abingdon £320,000

Set in a peaceful location, this 3 bed property will appeal to those searching for a retreat from the hustle and bustle whilst being within half a mile of Abingdon Town Centre. EPC Rating D.

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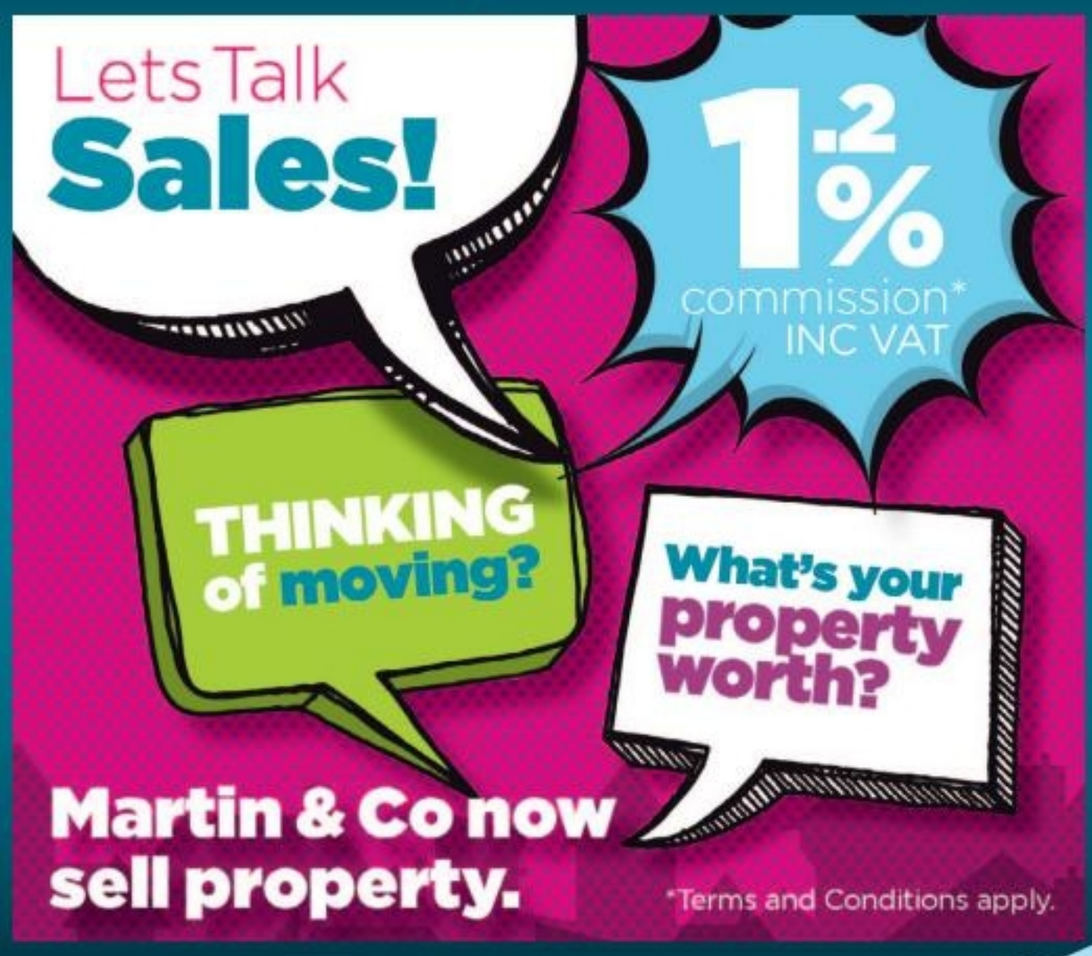

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Mama Mia! A real splash hit of a show

THE cast of Mamma Mia paid a visit to the city ahead of performing in Oxford later this year.
During the visit Phillip Ryan, who plays Sky in the hit musical, and the supporting cast couldn't resist a dip in Hinksey Heated Outdoor Pool – despite the lack of Greek sunshine.
The hit musical Mamma Mia comes to the New Theatre from November 14 to 25.
Tickets from £17.50, for more information go to atgtickets.com/oxford

Picture: Stuart Harrison Photography

Emma meets her match in Austen classic

JANE Austen's classic tale of match-making, meddling and marriage comes to the Oxford Playhouse this month.

Young, bright and beautiful, Emma Woodhouse has the world at her feet – or at least the small part of Surrey in which she lives.

When the dashing Mr Elton comes to town she decides to take it on herself to perform the role of matchmaker for her new friend Harriet Smith.

But to Emma's great surprise, the more she tries to manipulate the destinies of others, the less success she has.

And she herself, determined never to wed, is forced to face her own feelings and perhaps even dare to love another.

The production marks the 200th anniversary of Austen's death, and runs from Tuesday, June 20, until Saturday, June 24.

Filled with romance, scheming and mistaken intentions, this new incarnation of Austen's original rom-com is directed by Colin Blumenau, who has lovingly restored a large repertoire of Georgian plays and stories over the last 20 years.

The production has been adapted for stage by acclaimed writer Tim Luscombe, whose other work includes Northanger Abbey, Mansfield Park and Persuasion.

Staying faithful to the original, Emma's tale is relayed with verve and style and the characters are brought vividly to life with all their foibles.

The tour will star Bethan Nash as Emma and Phillip Edgerley as Mr Knightley.

Tickets are from £11.50 to £28 and are available from the ticket office on 01865 305305 or go to oxfordplay-house.com

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Shappi's love letter to UK

By Samantha McGregor

COMEDIAN Shappi Khorsandi celebrates the 40th anniversary of her arrival in the UK with her new show Oh My Country'.

She takes to the stage at the Oxford Playhouse for one night only on Saturday to reclaim patriotism and send a love letter to her adopted land.

Shappi is in high demand following a sell-out run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, an autumn UK tour, and performances in Live At The Apollo, Have I Got News for You and QI.

Before her stint in Oxford, Shappi took time out to talk to the Oxfordshire Guardian. We asked:

Did you have any other jobs before you became a comedian?

"I was a nude life model. It was a good job as long as you didn't look down. I was also a cleaner in a psycho-geriatric ward. I loved it. Lots of chats with people who had been on earth a long time, very little cleaning."

How do you come up with new material?

"I slip on metaphorical banana skins then talk about it. Basically I capitalise on calamity in my life."

What has been your best (and worst) TV show to guest on?

"The Graham Norton Show was the best. He is so genuinely lovely and mega smart. Worst was Mock The Week, it was like playing Hungry Hippos."

What's next for you?

After the laundry? I'm writing a new show called Mistress and Misfit. It's about Lady Hamilton, Nelson's love.

"She was a life model and single mum like me. We both have a thing for sailors."

This visit is a welcome return to Oxford for Shappi, she said: "Oxford is lush. Very intelligent audience. And no, I DO NOT SAY THIS IN EVERY INTERVIEW!"

Finally, we asked her what the audience can expect, she replied simply: "Fun."

For more information and ticket details about Shappi's show go to oxfordplayhouse.com

Shappi Khorsandi will be tackling everything from Morrissey to Morris men

Offbeat but great

OFFBEAT has teamed up with BBC Introducing Oxford to host the festival's music programme.

The line-up features Oxford's best up and coming bands, wordsmiths and singer song-writers performing over four days across two stages, the Gallery Stage and the Festival Stage, at the Old Fire Station.

The Gallery Stage features a programme of spoken word, acoustic music and singer-songwriters in front of Kazem Haziki's acclaimed Portraits from A Chip Shop exhibition.

Over at the Festival Stage, headline acts feature jazz, folk, electronica and pop/R'n'B from Wandering Wires, Dolly Mavies, Low Island and Haula.

Offbeat which runs from June 23 to July 2 is Oxford's fringe festival, now in its second year, offering a wide range of performance across theatre, comedy, spoken word, music and dance.

Acts this year include comedians Mark Thomas and Viv Groskop, challenging theatre productions, a dance programme which includes Kathak dance and new work by world-class choreographers.

More than half the shows are UK premières, and a quarter have been created by local Oxfordshire-based artists. Ticket prices for all performances will be £10 or less. For more information view offbeatoxford.co.uk

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ENTERTAINMENT & LEISURE

Inspired by White Horse

By Samantha McGregor

RICHARD Durrant brings his new acoustic show Stringhenge to Oxfordshire as part of his latest tour.

With an international reputation as one of the great guitarists of his generation, Richard's Stringhenge is acoustic music inspired by the British Isles, featuring the Uffington Tenor Guitar, built in Sussex and a six string Concert Guitar, built in Lincolnshire and made from 5,000-year-old English oak.

The show is unplugged allowing the audience to hear and feel the vibrations of the wood in the guitars.

Since studying at the Royal College of Music Richard has pursued both performance and composition and kept his ever faithful, ever expanding audience close to his music with his unpretentious manner and natural skills of communication.

Richard is as comfortable performing the classical guitar at the Royal Albert Hall as he is giving a ukulele concert in the wilds of Paraguay or the smallest, English village hall

His adventures have allowed him to dip in and out of the worlds of classical, folk, world and jazz.

Richard said: "My fascination with the Uffington White Horse is long held - I have even commissioned a guitar featuring a silver engraving of this beautiful hill carving which I'm playing throughout this tour.

"My very real connection with the hill carvings of Britain began during my time living at Wilmington Priory at the feet of the Long Man of Wilmington.

"I awoke each morning to see the giant figure looking out across the Sussex landscape and would walk up and sit alongside him most days.

"His silent presence was an inspiration which resulted in both the creation of a record label (LongMan Records) and much new music."

He will perform at St Nicholas Church, Station Road, Baulking, Faringdon - near the Uffington White Horse - on June 23, from 8pm.

Tickets cost £14, for more information call 01367 820282 or go to richard-durrant.com

Trees fest growing

A STRING of acts have been lined up for 2000Trees Festival taking place in the Cotswolds next month.

Running from July 6 to 8, the Cheltenham-based, independent, green-fields rock festival will feature performances by Frank Carter and the Rattlesnakes, Lower Than Atlantis, Mallory Knox, The Menzingers, Honeyblood and Skinny Lister.

The 10,000 capacity festival will host 120 of the best new and underground acts from the worlds of rock and indie, plus some more established acts to close out the night.

Festival organiser James Scarlett said: "We had a phenomenal 10th anniversary last year.

"The atmosphere was so special and the feedback was incredible, so it was always going to be a tough task to top that, but all our efforts have gone into doing just that and we are so excited for 2017."

Lower Than Atlantis front man Mike Duce said: "We are really excited to return to 2000Trees this summer. Lots of our mates are playing too so it'll be a good time in a beautiful part of the country."

Mikey Chapman, vocalist with Mallory Knox, added: "We're really looking forward to getting back to 2000 trees again this year, we had an awesome time last year can't wait to do it all again with a new set."

twothousandtreesfestival.co.uk

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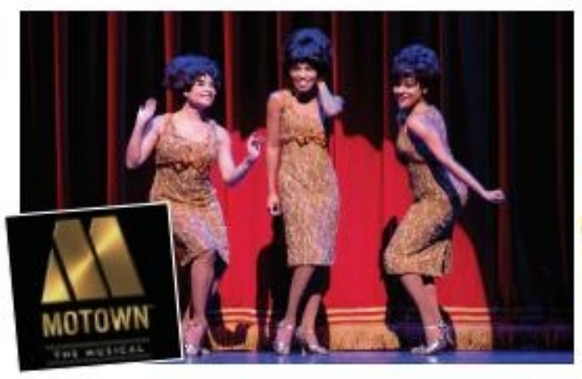

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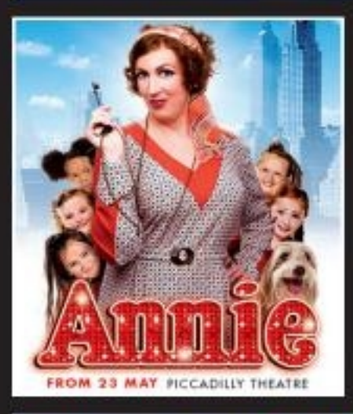

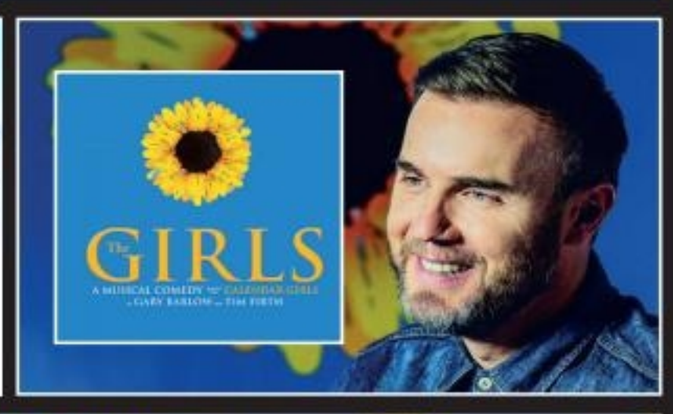

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Faithful adaptation allows du Maurier to shine

My Cousin Rachel (12A)

By Laurie Bailey

MISTRUST and mystery abound as Roger Michell (Notting Hill, Changing Lanes) adapts Daphne du Maurier's classic period novel, bringing one of her most enigmatic characters to the silver screen.

When Philip Ashley (Sam Claflin) learns that the widow of his greatly loved cousin and legal guardian, Ambrose, has arrived in Cornwall from overseas, he is torn between curiosity and a thirst for revenge.

Before his death, Ambrose had uncharacteristically fallen for and married another cousin of theirs, Rachel (Rachel Weisz), while staying in Italy for his declining health. His letters to Philip began full of affection for his new love, but slowly turned to fearful suspicion, believing the very worst of her. While cooler heads attribute this paranoia to delusions from a brain tumour, Philip is unconvinced.

He invites Rachel to stay with him at Ambrose's former country estate, determined to uncover the truth.

Du Maurier is a master of unfolding mystery, playing with unreliable narration to seduce and confound the reader. When it finally seems that Rachel's true nature has been revealed, a new piece of evidence emerges to somehow exonerate her, throwing doubt onto Philip's own character.

Michell grasps this fully, allowing the story to remain star of the film. Events proceed slowly and smoothly, with the camera often avoiding direct focus on its subject. Philip and Rachel are frequently observed in profile, from low angles, or obscured by furniture in cluttered rooms, creating the odd sense that space has been left for something invisible within the frame; almost as if the story's hidden secrets are physically present.

The realisation of 19th century Cornwall is wonderful, making full use of the setting's opulence and isolation. Darkness and light are in constant dialogue, feeding the mystery's shifting nature and showing off the cast's nuanced performances.

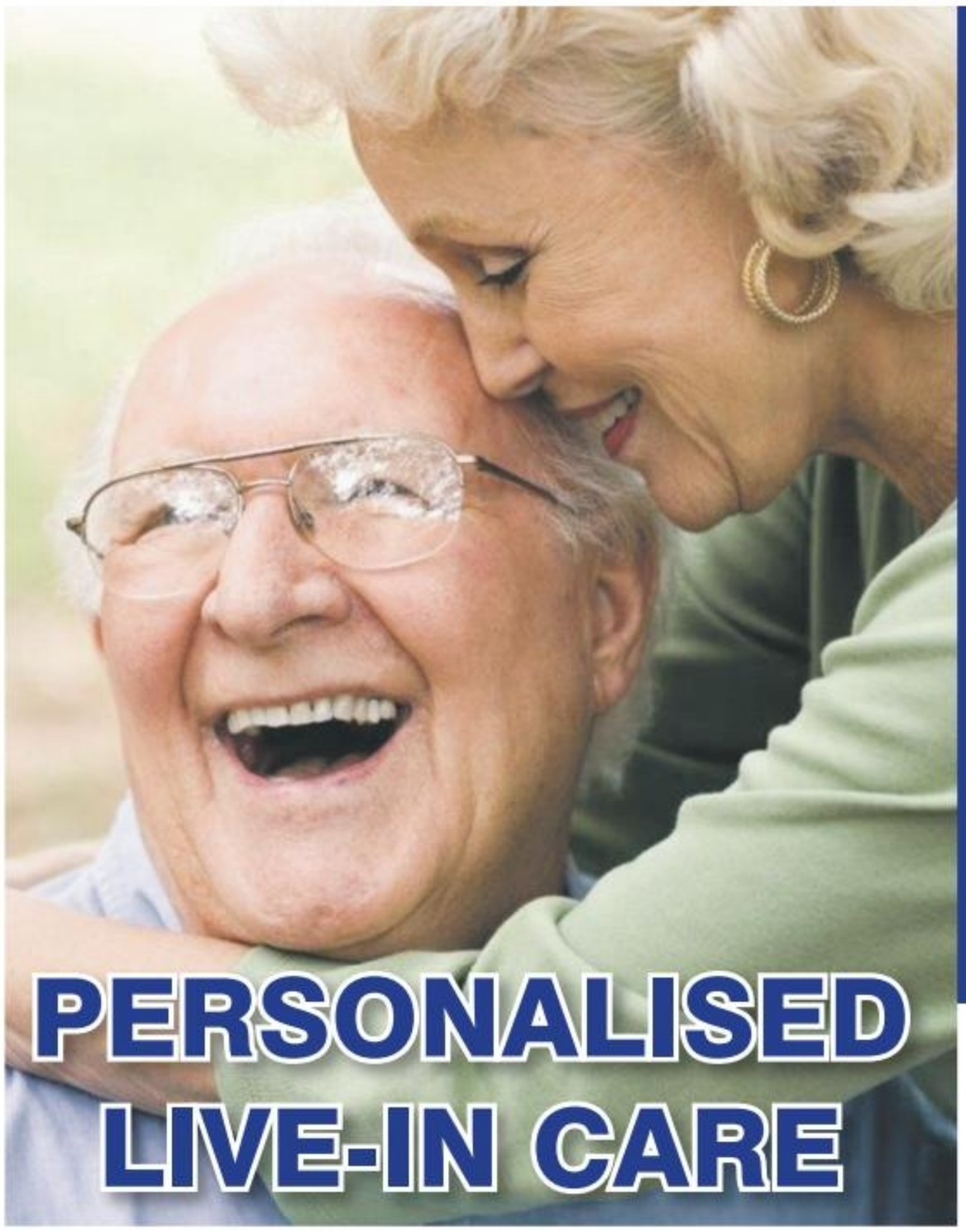
Claflin is excellent as the brash Philip, successfully balancing innocent enthusiasm with buried meanness, while Weisz brilliantly deflects any kind of expectations surrounding Rachel's character, maintaining the elusive complexity of du Maurier's creation.

On rare occasions, Rael Jones' dramatic score and Michell's direction interfere with the story's subtlety, overdoing suggestions of foul play or confusion - particularly during oddly high-energy flashback sequences - but really, there is very little to complain about.

My Cousin Rachel is a compelling, atmospheric drama that invites you to puzzle over its mysterious pieces.

Sam Claflin as Philip and Rachel Weisz as Rachel in My Cousin Rachel
Picture: Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation.

Laurie is an Oxford-based film critic, movie podcast host and BBC Radio Oxford film contributor. He lives locally with his wife, daughter and son.
See more of his film reviews at lauriebailey.co.uk



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Peugeot Traveller Business BlueHDi 115

Perfect for family and football fans

By **Tony Yates**

THIS week I seem to be testing a van – and although it looks like a van, sounds like a van and can carry up to nine passengers, it's actually not too bad at all, even though many will say it's still a 'van'

So, if you are looking for a business machine that can ferry around all of your staff and clients in a decent amount of comfort – then the Peugeot Traveller is the one for you. Let's not forget if you are in the market for a large machine for the family – then the Traveller also fits in as the perfect family load slugger with enough space for the whole tribe.

Power and efficiency

The Traveller I had on test was powered by an 115hp 1.6 litre diesel engine that performs as I expected considering its size. The Traveller is also fitted with what I think is one of Peugeot's best engines to date, and will happily return 54mpg (combined) top speed of course is of no concern here, because the Traveller was designed to be a business friendly vehicle and not a 'race car'. The important bits like torque figures are more relevant though because of the nature of what the vehicle will be carrying. That 1.6 HDi diesel engine produces around 300Nm which is great for all those times when you will have a full load and are in a bit of a hurry.

On the road

The ride is actually very comfortable and not bumpy or choppy at all like I expected it to be. To be honest – I thought the ride was going to be the Traveller's downfall – when actually all is well, with no sign of a harsh ride - even when fully loaded. Also, it actually felt very relaxing to drive and I enjoyed driving the family around in it all week. I also had to take all my football mates to a local match one evening – and while most of them owned a VW Transporter – they were all really impressed with what the Peugeot had to offer and commented on what their 'Transporter's' were lacking in - and what you happen to get for free inside the Peugeot Traveller.

Design & technology

As I said earlier, the Traveller has the ability to carry up to 9 people – and that is not something you see every day. Leaving that aside for a moment – it does come equipped with an abundance of additional kit to keep the business end happy such as; 7" touchscreen with DAB, air conditioning, LED DRL's, cruise control, automatic lights and wipers and rear parking sensors. This is just a small amount of what's on offer.

To sum up

The Peugeot Traveller is a decent large business/family machine that ticks all the boxes when it comes to getting around in a decent amount of comfort. If I was in the need for a business machine – then I would be checking out the Peugeot Traveller.

Price (from) £30,320 (as tested)

• *The Peugeot Traveller may look like a van but it offers so much more*

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Fuel consumption figures for the Jazz S 1.3 i-VTEC Manual mpg (l/100km): Urban 46.3 (6.1), Extra Urban 65.7 (4.3), Combined 56.5 (5.0). CO_2 emissions: 116g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

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Fuel consumption figures for the CR-V 1.6 i-VTEC SE Plus NAVI 2WD Manual mpg (l/100km): Urban 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 64.2 (4.4). CO_2 emissions: 115g/km. Fuel consumption figures sourced from official EU-regulated laboratory test results, are provided for comparison purposes and may not reflect real-life driving experience.

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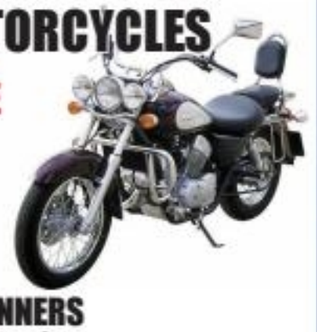

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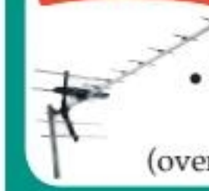

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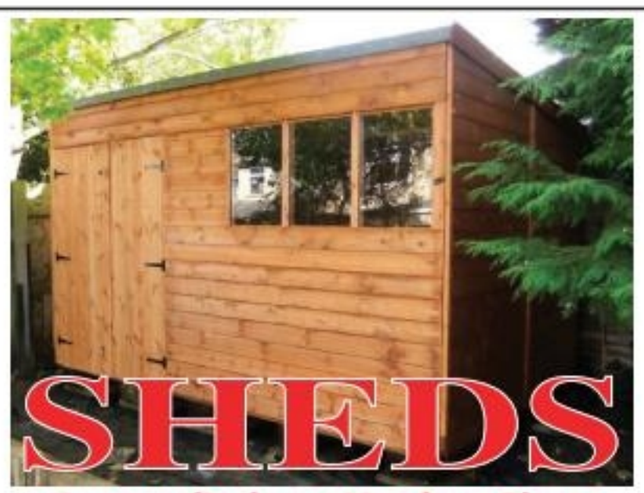

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New head of hockey snaps up two Stars

Ice Hockey

OXFORD City Stars stalwart Darryl Morvan has been appointed the club's new head of hockey operations and has wasted no time in making new signings.

Morvan joined the Stars in 1984 and has previously been captain and coach in different spells.

He has been brought in following the resignation of head coach Simon Anderson.

He said: "I'm thrilled to be taking on this new role and looking forward to working with both the Stars management team and the junior club."

Morvan has already snapped up two new players as the Stars prepare for life in the National Ice Hockey League 2 from next season.

Warren Jones and Mike Whillock have both this week been confirmed by the Stars to bolster their playing squad.

Winger Jones, 23, started his career in his home city of Oxford and has been with Basingstoke Buffalo for the last two seasons.

And 24-year-old Whillock is also rejoining the team, having spent the majority of his career at Oxpens Road.

He said: "I can't wait to get back in the locker room and back on the ice in a Stars jersey."

Setback in 100th game

Rugby League

FOLLOWING two wins in a row, Oxford RL fell to a heavy 48-12 defeat at home to Whitehaven on Sunday.

The match was Oxford's 100th, but there were no happy celebrations as Whitehaven made a ruthless start to the game and were 22-0 up after just 15 minutes.

Oxford did start to get into the match after that point, although it would take them until just before half time to get on the scoresheet as Harvey Burnett put the ball down under the posts.

However on 50 minutes the home side saw Jordan Siddons sent off for a high tackle that would help Whitehaven go on to score another five tries in the second half.

Scott Fleming was able to pull one back during Whitehaven's onslaught, but the visitors were definitely the deserving winners.

Oxford are 10th in the Kingstone Press League 1 standings with eight points and make the trip to London Skolars on Saturday.

Tell us your sports news, email us at news@oxfordshireguardian.co.uk

Gordon Benson wins the men's elite race

Gordon follows in footsteps of Olympic champ to win triathlon

The podium for the women's elite race, won by Sophie Coldwell with Sophia Saller second and Beth Potter third

The Weekend Warriors completed 358 sprint distance triathlons between them

By Adam Flinn

FOLLOWING in the footsteps of Olympic gold medallist Alistair Brownlee, Gordon Benson was the latest winner of the Bloodwise Blenheim Palace Triathlon at the weekend.

The 23-year-old completed the 750m swim, 19.8km bike ride and 5.4km run in a time of 58.26 – only 25 seconds off Brownlee's winning time from last year.

It was also an improvement on his third place finish from 2016.

He was closely followed home by Chris Perham and James Teagle in second and third.

In the women's elite race, Sophie Coldwell narrowly took victory with a time of 1.05.01, beating Sophia Saller and Beth Potter on the sprint to the line.

A number of races took place at Blenheim across the two days on Saturday and Sunday, with entrants of all abilities taking part to help raise £300,000 for event sponsor and blood cancer charity Bloodwise.

Matt Lawley, head of sport at Bloodwise, said: "Yet again it's been another fantastic event at Blenheim Palace.

"As always, we're utterly inspired by all those that took part in this year's event and particularly grateful to those who raised money to support the research we do into blood cancer, the UK's third biggest cancer killer."

During the two days the renowned Weekend Warriors attempted to take part in as many sprint distance triathlons as possible.

The group of 62 athletes managed to complete 211 between them on Saturday and another 147 on Sunday.

Justin Scott, one of those who took on the challenge, said: "This is my second time with the amazing Weekend Warriors and I'm so happy to have been part of the team.

"I love coming back to Blenheim year on year – the scenery and atmosphere combined at this triathlon is something special."

More than 7,000 people swam, cycled and ran at Blenheim over the weekend.

Marc Webster, senior vice president of organisers IMG Mass Participation, said: "The thousands of participants and huge crowds have made this year's event something special.

"It's been great welcoming first-timers, seasoned triathletes and those raising money for some truly worthwhile causes and we want to thank everyone for making this event one of the very best on the triathlon circuit.

"We look forward to returning in 2018."

Devastating Owen leaves Bicester to lick wounds

Cricket

BICESTER and North Oxford CC were on the end of a thrashing by Cublington, losing by 131 runs at home.

A devastating spell of 6-21 by Cublington's Owen Venables caused BNOCC to dramatically collapse from 56-0 to 99 all out while chasing 230.

The visitors had won the toss, choosing to bat first, and Ketan Patel (70) and Sam Carter (36) looked like they could take the game away from Bicester.

But they finished well in the field with Dan Savin (2-55), Kishan Dave (2-52) and Danny Clark (2-58) restricting Cublington to 230 when it looked like it could be more.

The Bicester reply got off to a great start as opener Nick Moorman (29) scored 10 off the first over and, together with Matt Collins (25), they kept up with the run rate.

But things took a turn for the worse when Collins was caught by Patel.

Venables' first victim was Moorman who was quickly followed back by son Joe, dismissed for a duck from the same bowler.

Ollie Fairhurst chipped in with 2-35 and Will Rodnight with 2-7 but it was Venables who did the most damage.

He trapped Ryan Moore LBW for 12 before Dan Murphy (3), Dan Savin and Kishan Dave all nicked behind to Carter, leaving Bicester wondering how they had capitulated so badly.

They'll be hoping to make amends next time out against top of the table Westbury.

Saints lose out in thriller

American Football

OXFORD Saints went down 13-12 at Sussex Thunder in a thriller against the southern conference leaders.

Both teams cancelled each other out in the first period as they tried to unlock the defences.

Oxford piled on the pressure as half time approached but were unable to seize the initiative and the game remained 0-0.

After half time the Saints took the lead after a good interception from defender Misha Brookes from a Thunder offense in the third quarter.

The turnover set them up nicely and Walter added the first down on the ground before running the ball in himself from the one-yard line for the first touchdown to give Oxford a 6-0 lead.

Thunder hit back through Kington who ran the ball in for a one-yard score with kicker Danny Wallace hitting the left goalpost, the score now six-all.

At the end of the third quarter, Saints made it 12-6 through Luke Fry but they were unable to score the extra points.

It was now very much end-to-end and Sussex equalised through Chris Evans touching down and Andrew Stone kicking the extra point.

It gave them a 13-12 lead with two minutes remaining and they held on for the tightest of victories.

Sussex defenders pursue James Walter. Picture: Jamie Stancombe

Renault chief: It'll be a testing time in Canada

Formula 1

By Adam Flinn

MONTREAL is the destination for Oxfordshire's three Formula One teams this weekend as they prepare for the Canadian Grand Prix and what will be the seventh race of the 2017 season.

Williams, Renault and Haas have been fairly evenly matched so far this year and sit sixth, seventh and eighth respectively in the constructors' championship standings.

Grove-based Williams have had the best package of the three so far, but have had to rely on Brazilian veteran Felipe Massa to score all 20 of their points after a troubled start for rookie Lance Stroll for whom this is his home race.

At times Williams have had the fourth best car, but in some cases have been unable to capitalise on their performance.

Like Williams, Enstone-based Renault have had only one driver scoring points – Nico Hulkenberg collecting all 14.

They were unable to score last time out in Monaco after Hulkenberg's gearbox broke in the early stages, while Jolyon Palmer just missed out on a first top 10 finish of the year.

Chief technical officer Bob Bell thinks Montreal has the potential to be another challenging weekend for the team.

He said: "There are a lot of kerbs around Montreal and to get a good time there you need to use them.

"Traditionally, in the last few races, that has not been our strong point, but we are making progress there and it will be a test for us.

"We have some new bits including some aero upgrades specifically for this grand prix."

Banbury-based Haas head to Canada off the back of their first ever double points finish, after Romain Grosjean and Kevin Magnussen came home eighth and 10th in Monaco. It took 27 races in F1 for Haas to achieve the feat and Grosjean is pleased with the progress the team has shown.

He said: "Last year we started very well, then we struggled a little bit more as we were preparing for 2017.

"The car is very good, we've had a lot of chances to get into the points and we haven't always had the luck we needed but, eventually, Monaco came.

"It was not maybe the place we expected to get both cars into the top 10, but we did it, and it shows that the team is now capable of finding the right set-up, the right strategy and going for it.

"It was a big achievement."

William beats heat to take title

Badminton

BICESTER Badminton Club rounded off their season with a tournament.

Members battled it out in games of doubles for individual points rankings.

The overall winner was 18-year-old William Foster who battled through three hours of stifling heat to take the crown.

It has been a relatively successful year for the club, which has just received sponsorship from Bicester Village. The mixed doubles team gained promotion to division one of the Banbury Town League by three points while both 'A' teams maintained their places in the top divisions.

In the Oxfordshire League, the mixed team kept their place in division one, but the Men's 'A' and 'B' teams were demoted to divisions two and five respectively.

They are now on the lookout for people who can play to a reasonable standard.

Left, William Foster is awarded the winner's trophy by long-standing club member George Begoo

Bradley Smith had a tough day on Sunday. Picture: Marco Campelli

Brakes blow for Bradley

MotoGP

A REAR brake problem meant Oxford MotoGP rider Bradley Smith recorded his lowest finishing position of the year at Sunday's Italian Grand Prix.

He brought his KTM home in 20th and last at Mugello, although he was within two tenths of a second of Sam Lowes and Loris Baz at the flag.

Smith struggled towards the back for the entirety of the race in what was a difficult afternoon.

He said: "We kept on working on the bike right up until the race, but when I started it was with a slightly different setting that took me a little too long to get the right feeling with.

"Unfortunately the rear brake started to give me trouble from the halfway point – then I had nothing.

"For the KTM it's crucial to make the bike work with a rear brake so it's a frustrating way to finish the weekend. But we learnt a great deal around such a difficult, technical track."

It was Smith's lowest classified finish since coming 22nd in the 2014 British Grand Prix.

But he will have the chance to make amends this Sunday as the championship heads to Spain and the Catalunya circuit near Barcelona.

Tom Winters in action during his loan spell with Banbury last season

Vets bring years of experience

A WEALTH of experience has been added to Banbury United's squad following the arrival of two veterans from Oxford City.

Striker Jefferson Louis, 38, made the 38th move of his 20-year career by joining the Puritans, while 31-year-old midfielder Tom Winters signed to make his loan spell permanent.

Leaving are Mark Bell and Eddie Odhiambo. The pair have been released and it is "highly unlikely" Callum White will be at the club next season.

Puritans boss Mike Ford admitted at the end of last season that the lack of goals prevented his side from making the Southern Premier League play-offs.

So he has turned to Louis, who scored eight goals in 31 games for the Hoops in the league above last season.

Ford said: "I watched Jefferson a number of times last season and as well as getting us goals his experience and know-how will be of great help to our younger players."

Also signing for next season is winger Winters, who spent time at the Banbury Plant Hire Community Stadium on loan from City from February.

He made 11 appearances and Ford moved quickly to secure his man.

He said: "It was clear from his body language and performances that he enjoyed his time with us."

Meanwhile, George Nash, striker/central defender Ricky Johnson and Jack Harding have signed contract extensions.

Although he hasn't officially left yet Callum White's time at the club seems limited. He made 107 appearances over three years.

Ardley hit by double resignation

ARDLEY United have been rocked following the departure of the club's chairman and manager on the same day.

Boss Paul Davis, who led United to the Supplementary Cup title last season, has resigned for "personal reasons" while chairman Norman Stacey is to retire after 35 years in the role.

Both departures were announced on Friday.

Ardley finished fifth in the Hellenic Premier League and clinched the Supplementary Cup in the last game of last season.

Davis, *above*, who leaves the club after 18 months in charge, said: "I have enjoyed my time at the club – it's been a roller coaster of emotions during my tenure but one I've thoroughly enjoyed.

"Personal reasons dictate it is time for me to step down now, but to finish the season in fifth place and to collect a trophy at the end of a long season are memories that I will never forget."

Stacey said it was time to call it a day due to family health problems and his approaching 75th birthday.

He said: "I have seen this little village club climb from the Lord Jersey League through the Oxford Senior League and into the Premier of the Uhlsport Hellenic League, a journey which has been fraught with highs and lows along the way but one that has provided me with much pride and pleasure."

The closest they got to promotion was finishing second to Wantage Town by one point in 2014.

But Stacey's retirement is not the last Ardley will see of their long-serving chairman.

"I will not be disappearing as I intend to buy an anorak and spend my Saturdays visiting the many clubs that I have grown to know and respect," said Stacey.

Dunkley joins Wigan after rejecting United

By George Welch

DEFENDER Chey Dunkley has joined Oxford United's SkyBet League One rivals Wigan Athletic after rejecting a new contract.

The towering centre back played nearly 100 times for the U's.

He joins the Latics, who were relegated from the Championship last season, on a free after running down his contract at the Kassam.

The 25-year-old was offered fresh terms at United but has opted to sign a three-year deal at Wigan, who he will join officially on July 1.

Dunkley, who played 96 times and scored seven times for the U's after joining from Kidderminster Harriers in 2014, is the first signing made by Paul Cook, who was only appointed Wigan boss on May 31 after moving from Portsmouth.

Dunkley made 52 appearances in all competitions for Michael Appleton's side last season and Cook said he expects his first recruit to "add more quality to a strong defensive department."

He added: "Chey is an exciting talent and will be a big asset."

Speaking to his new club's website, Dunkley said: "It's a big club who have got really strong players for this division. The club sells itself to me and we all want to get back into the Championship.

"I've spoken to the new gaffer and he's someone I've obviously come up against when he was in charge of Portsmouth and I was playing for Oxford. He plays attractive football but he also seems like someone who can lift the place and is a real character."

Wigan will be expected to compete at the top end of the League One table but Dunkley is ready for the challenge and he doesn't expect it will take long to settle.

He said: "The division will be very challenging this season but I've played against the majority of the teams in it and I'm up for the test alongside the team.

"I know Omar Bogle from my time playing with him for England C and I'm very, very good mates with Sam Morsy. When I was at Crewe I played with Nick Powell and Ryan Colclough who were younger than me, so it'll be nice to see those guys again."

Left back Joe Skarz, who left United by mutual consent last week, has rejoined League One side Bury.

The 27-year-old made 145 appearances for the Shakers before he was released at the end of the 2012-13 season and joined Rotherham United.

Dunkley clears against Rochdale. Picture: *Steve Daniels*

■ Centre back Charlie Raglan has made his stay at Oxford United a permanent one after signing a two-year deal.

The defender, who was released by parent club Chesterfield following their relegation to League Two, made 16 appearances for the U's last season and has an option for a further 12 months.

The 24-year-old, who started the first game of last season lining up for Chesterfield against Oxford at the Kassam, said he "thoroughly enjoyed" his loan stint.

He said: "I am looking forward to being here longer term. The manager and staff are great and I want to repay the faith they have shown in me by being part of a successful side next time around.

"The club is always looking to push on and move forward and that is exciting to be involved in."

Head coach Michael Appleton believes the best is yet to come from the 6ft centre half.

He said: "He is already a very good defender who is comfortable on the ball and he showed a fantastic attitude last season.

"He had to bide his time at certain stages but worked hard, stayed positive and did great."

Oxford United Women celebrate scoring a goal

Women target top six

OXFORD United Women are targeting a top-six finish when the new Women's Super League 2 (WSL2) season kicks off in September.

Planning is already under way for the start of the season, which sees Oxford with the biggest playing budget they have ever had since obtaining WSL status.

The U's finished bottom of the WSL2 Spring Series, ending the short nine-match season with a 4-0 defeat at home to Doncaster Rovers Belles on May 21.

But they have already put the disappointing campaign behind them as they target bigger and better things.

Ruth Senior, Oxford United Women's general manager, said: "We put a proposal to the board for a top-six finish and they were in full support of the investment

"The club had also heavily invested in off-pitch developments, which we hope to announce over the next couple of weeks, so it's a really exciting time for Oxford United Women."

The budget will allow the club to bring in new players in order to make better progress.

Manager Andy Cook said: "If we can get this right from the top, this will start to filter down and over time help the talent pathway in Oxford to provide us with the very best players and people for the first team."

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I'm loving it! Striker signs in McDonalds

By George Welch

OXFORD City set the bar for one of the strangest locations to sign a player when Matt Paterson finalised a deal with the club – in McDonald's.

The new striker put pen to paper at the unknown Maccies on Wednesday last week, although there was no Big Mac in sight.

The announcement on the National League South side's Twitter account instantly went viral on social media and the fast-food chain replied with a tweet of its own.

"Good in the box and often lifting a cup, we're big fans of Oxford City's tasty new signing," it read.

Paterson scored 18 goals in 30 starts last season for Ryman League Premier champions Havant & Waterlooville.

His arrival last week was preceded by David Pearce's transfer from Chesham United – and he was photographed by the club signing his contact in a garden.

The winger scored 50 goals for the Buckinghamshire club since 2015.

The Hoops have also announced that six players from last season have re-signed and eight have left the club.

Boss Mark Jones admitted he couldn't compete with divisional rivals and play-off losers Chelmsford City for midfielder Scott Davies.

The seven other players – Tom Winters, Shaun MacAuley, Mike Fondop, Jefferson Louis, Akin Abiola-Daramola, Jean Niate and Wilson Carvalho – have all been released.

Though City couldn't match Chelmsford's contract offer for Davies, captain Lee Henderson, Godfrey Poku, Craig Hill, Ezra Forde, Reece Fleet and Guri Demuria have all committed to another year at the Court Place Farm.

New Oxford City striker Matt Paterson is pictured signing his contract in McDonalds...

... winger David Pearce meanwhile is seen agreeing to his signing on terms in a back garden

Jones said he was "delighted" to keep hold of the players, adding: "They were all very important last season and we're looking forward to trying to improve upon what we achieved. I'm delighted to have got them all over the line and we hope that they can have a successful season for us."

Talks are continuing with defender Freddie Grant.

Loan players George Essuman, Kaiman Anderson and Connor Furlong have returned to their clubs.

Eddie shoots first top 10 finish after nearly a year

EDDIE Pepperell picked up his best result in almost a year on the European Tour after finishing tied eighth at the Nordea Masters.

The Abingdon golfer continued his recent good form to end the tournament six under par, and has jumped up 74 places in the world golf rankings to 449th as a result.

It comes after he qualified for the US Open last week, and his recent upturn in fortunes will be encouraging as he prepares to tee off alongside the world's best at Erin Hills next Thursday.

Pepperell made a solid start to the Nordea Masters in Sweden on Thursday, parring each of his first six holes before making a birdie on the seventh.

Two more birdies followed on 11 and 12 and then another at 16 before giving the shot back at the next hole, resulting in a three under par first round and a share of fifth place.

Round two was more of a struggle as three bogeys and two birdies meant he dropped a shot overall on Friday.

However his two under par score was easily enough to make the cut by four shots – only the third time he has made it through to the weekend's play on the tour this season.

After a birdie and bogey on the front nine of round three, Pepperell hit back with birdies either side of a bogey on 11, with another at 17 getting him back to four under overall.

And a run of three birdies in a row on 4, 5 and 6 helped Pepperell to another round of 71 on Sunday, giving him a share of eighth place and €28,800 in prize money.

Italian Renato Paratore won the tournament on 11 under par, one shot ahead of English duo Matthew Fitzpatrick and Chris Wood.

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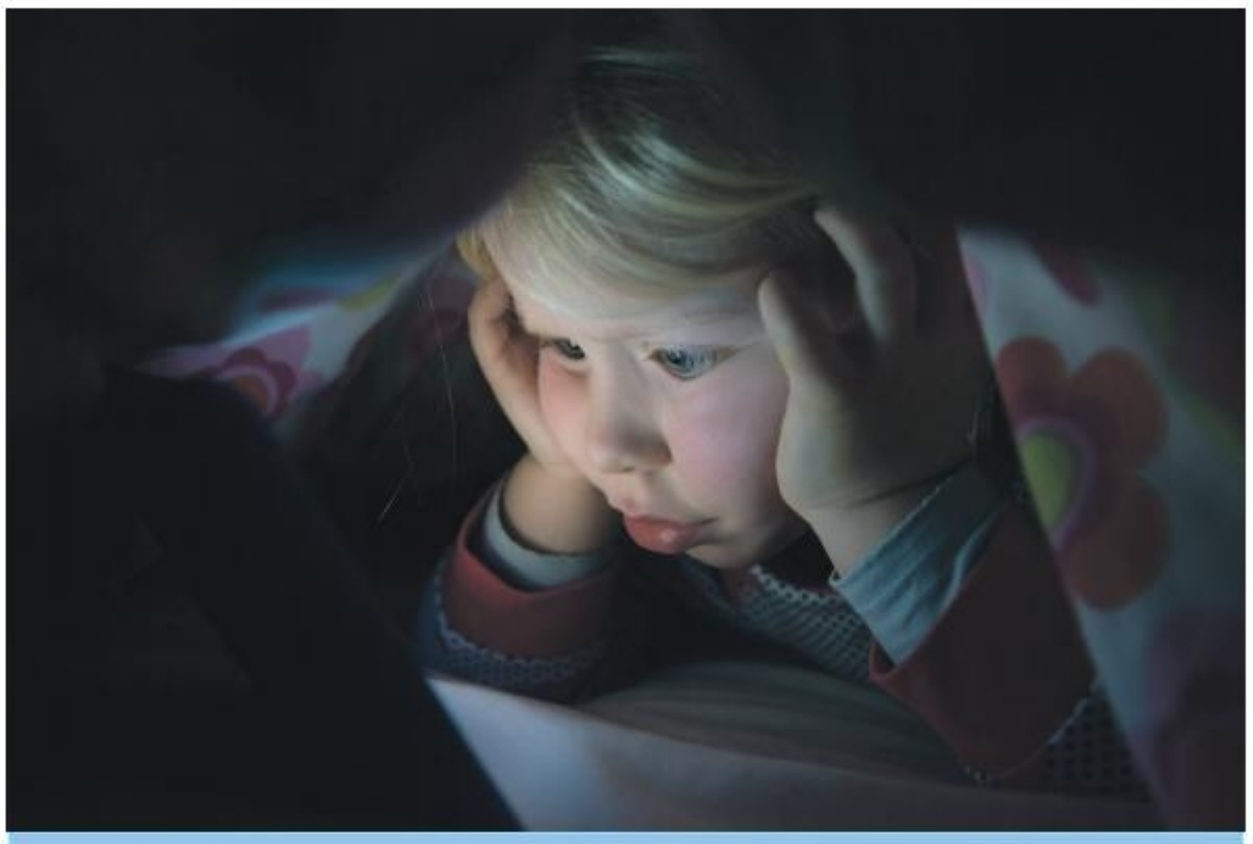

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